

LAWAMENA INCORPORATED

NEWSLETTER

From the President's Desk

On reflection, the first quarter of 2011 has been rather tumultuous for various parts of the world, including Australia.

It is heartening to see that people of the world can unite to assist their neighbours in times of disaster when lives and property are shattered by the uncontrollable forces of nature.

Lawamena was born out of the need to help people who found their lives shattered by disastrous conflicts. With the assistance, kindness and generosity of our supporters we are able to lift people 'from the ashes' and give them hope and opportunity.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our friends and supporters for their kindness and invite them to continue in their generous work of bringing sunshine and empowerment to the lives of people through the power of education and knowledge.

Our Current Achievements

Readers will recall from our last newsletter that we had set some sponsorship targets.

We are pleased and excited to report that we have successfully located 20 students who are suitable for sponsorship. We look forward to working with these students and their families in providing the vital education needs that will give them valuable skills for the rest of their lives.

Progress of Past Sponsored Students

Recently we were successful in locating four students who had previously been sponsored by Lawamena in 2000:

Yanes is currently employed full time as an administrator in the local government office.

Two of the former students, Hetty and Rosaline have progressed to studies at the Pattimura University in Ambon. Their studies are being sponsored by extended family members.

Regretfully, one of the students named Angel has not been successful in gaining full-time employment. She is currently unable to afford further studies. If she could undertake these studies we are confident that she would attain employment in rewarding work. - see below for the continuing story of Angel.

Further Educational Projects

- Assisting Angel

Lawamena has decided to assist Angel to obtain a Diploma in Computing which will improve her skills and equip her to enter the workforce. The course duration is one year. It is anticipated that the subjects will include: accounting, taxation, English, database, hardware, programming with Fox Pro and other relevant applications.

- Tertiary Assistance Scholarship

The Nursing Scholarship with Gull Force which commenced in September 2010 will continue this year with the initial two nurses completing their course by July 2011. This joint project will provide financial assistance for four new nursing students commencing July 2011.



Des O'Brien and Sue Heads from Gull Force with the nurses who received the scholarship

- Assistance to the local Primary Schools

In August 2010 Lawamena donated a desktop to Primary School No. 29 in Karang Panjang Ambon.

A request for assistance has been lodged by another school (Primary School No. 57 in Riang) for computer equipment. This school has also requested assistance with building a new fence.

These requests are currently being evaluated.

Meet Cristanta – One of our currently sponsored students:



CRISANTA (12 yrs), is the third daughter of PETRUS who is a newspaper seller and JOHANNA who is unemployed. Cristanta receives a scholarship from Lawamena. She is a hard working girl who every afternoon sells snacks in her neighbourhood to help support the family.

This academic year Crisanta has been promoted into the accelerated learning program in her school SMP Negeri 1 Ambon. This is a program for gifted students who are able to complete their junior high school period in two years instead of the normal 3 year period.

New Project Evaluation

Lawamena is currently evaluating a project in the village Hila Atas Putih. This village is a new settlement for the Hila Christian villagers who were displaced from their previous village during the conflict in 1999.

The new settlement area was established by the provincial government in 2003. Although some basic village infrastructure is in place such as a community building, health centre, church building and water supplies. There is no school building in the village because there is only a small number of school age children.

We consider that a small community library may be appropriate in the current circumstances and we are currently evaluating the feasibility of providing funding for a library and determining how the community will adopt the library as part of their village.

Important Dates to Remember

We would just like to remind our supporters and friends of Lawamena that we value your contributions to our Association. If not for your support we would not be able to continue the uplifting programs that we are currently operating.

In enabling us to continue our work your enthusiastic support is vital ...so please come along to our fundraising events and enjoy meeting other supporters, exchange anecdotes and of course light refreshment which we are always delighted to serve up.

OUR FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2011:

Tupperware Party

Date: 6th May 2011

Time: 7.30pm for supper

Venue: Ashburton Baptist Church Café (Melways ref 60 D9)

(Enter via Marquis Street car park)

RSVP Wednesday 4th May 2011

to Aretha M 0402 164 319 or email lawamena.inc@gmail.com) or Wendy 0438 848 183

Fundraising Dinner

Date: 16th July 2011

Time: 7pm

Venue: Ashburton Baptist Church Café (Melways ref 60 D9)

(Enter via Marquis Street car park)

Cost: \$35 per person

RSVP Saturday 9th July 2011

to Aretha (0402 164 319 or email lawamena.inc@gmail.com) or Christine 9795 4591