



## Autumn Newsletter 2009.

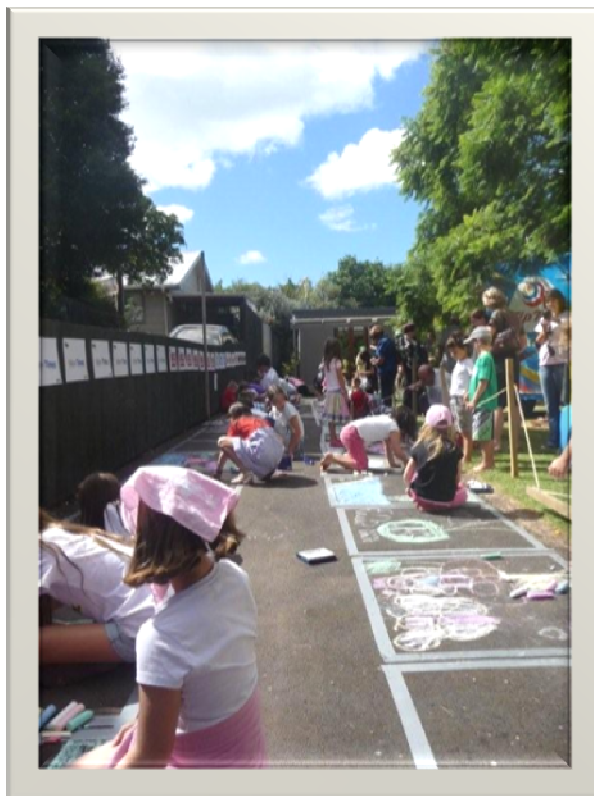
Kenzie's Gift has had a busy year so far. First up, our community play specialist, Maree Smith has been working with 6 families in the community, helping children and their families cope with the emotions, stressors and behaviours living with cancer brings. Maree worked with one young boy and helped with his transition back to school and another young girl, she helped come to terms with the loss of her sister to cancer. Fantastic work Maree, it is great to have you with us, helping our courageous families.



April seen the launch of 'ArtStreet', a children's art competition using 'chalk on pavement'. The event raised much needed funds for Kenzie's Gift. Peter Vandenberg, the founder of ArtStreet, commented, "This is just the start – we have visions of this event getting bigger and better year on year". Thanks to all the hard work of Peter, his wife Sam, Pippa Turley (ArtStreet's Event Co-ordinator), Benefitz, friends, associates and supporters, \$6,000 was raised for Kenzie's Gift. Over 120 children turned out to chalk their creations on Peter's driveway, and what a day it was. With Debbie Cronshaw MC'ing the event, local DJ Mo blasting out the vibes, New Zealand Street Artist Component giving the kids inspiration with his 'Angel on the Wall', parents were even dancing in the drive while the kids created in the drive. We definitely can't wait for next year's event...and thanks to everyone who helped out on the day and for all our Artstreet artists!



Pete Vanderberg (Founder of ArtStreet), Nic Russell (Director of Kenzie's Gift) and Pippa Turley (PR and Event Co-Ordinator) in front of Component's 'Angel on the Wall'.



Some of the creativity at ArtStreet!

Thanks to the proceeds of ArtStreet, Kenzie's Gift is able to run a pilot behavioural intervention project named "Mission Cancer", consisting of age appropriate and culturally sensitive workshops whose objectives are to:

- Support children, young people and families cope with the stresses of cancer.
- Develop effective coping and resilience strategies for children, young people and families
- Reduce their distress and assist in managing their anxiety, fears and anger.
- Provide a safe supportive caring environment for children, young people and their families to explore their feelings associated with cancer.
- Identify culturally based interventions specific to the New Zealand context

As a self learning and reflexive organisation and a strong belief Kenzie's Gift has is to apply patient reported outcomes in its projects. The primary goal of Patient Reported Outcomes is to measure the benefit to the child, young person, their family and community. This facilitates important information gathering for monitoring and improving psychosocial wellbeing and functioning, facilitating effective intervention programs, decision making and improving communication for children and families living with cancer.

Debbie Mills-Henry, our community based creative and expressive specialist has conducted one of the Mission Cancer Workshops in collaboration with the Child Cancer Foundation. Six children and their families attended the workshop, and an excellent and beneficial day was had by all. For many, it was an opportunity to freely express their concerns, fears and anxieties about living with cancer and to work through these. Debbie utilised her skills in memory making, puppetry, storytelling, 'clay stomping' and art to give the children opportunities to express their feelings in a supportive and caring environment. Debbie will also be following through with those children who need some more support on a one to one basis. Thanks to Debbie for her wonderful expertise in guiding and supporting our families and helping them through this emotionally traumatic time.

It is only through your support that Kenzie's Gift has been able to embark on such wonderful work and continue to help children and families living with cancer in the community. It is an emotional rollercoaster ride they are on and with your help we can guide them through and give them the coping strategies and tools to ride it out.

We could not do this without your continued support and the ongoing help of our board, staff, sponsors and volunteers. For more information on Kenzie's Gift please visit: [www.kenziesgift.com](http://www.kenziesgift.com) and if you would like to offer your support simply email: [kenziesgift@kenziesgift.com](mailto:kenziesgift@kenziesgift.com).

Looking forward to speaking to you all soon.

**Nic Russell,**

Director, Kenzie's Gift.

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