



Summer Newsletter 2009.

Another 6 months has gone by and Kenzie's Gift has been as busy as ever. Thanks to you, our loyal supporters, sponsor's and volunteers we have been able to continue to grow and deliver service provision. Even though everyone is feeling the financial pinch, your generosity is still felt and very much appreciated. It has enabled Maree our community play specialist to continue her fantastic work in the community and here she is with Emma, a courageous and bubbly young woman from Auckland 😊



Emma's nana had this to say about Maree, "Maree is amazing and extremely helpful. Emma's needs are ongoing and these sessions with Maree are very appropriate and helpful."

Thanks to Maree for her fabulous work.

Debbie Mills Henry has also been weaving her magic and hosted the first of our Mission Cancer workshops: Feelings and Cancer Workshops for Kids. We had 7 young challengers on this maiden voyage that got to stomp on clay, experiment with their creative side and express themselves under Debbie's expert guidance. The day was such a success we have another four booked in for the New Year, thanks to the Brenda Lewis and Clyde Graham trusts. We cannot thank them enough for coming along and supporting the Mission cancer Project.

The aims of the project are:

To provide fun, interactive and safe workshops for children and young people to express and discuss how they feel about cancer. They will be able to interact and socialize with other children/young people going through similar things to them.

Objectives:

- To give children and young people a chance to express, discuss and be heard about how they feel about cancer through using age appropriate fun activities such as puppets, art, music, stories and books
- Using Clay and/or Play dough children and young people have the opportunity to sculpt what they think cancer looks like
- Children and Young People have the opportunity to act out what they would like to do with that 'cancer' sculpture and how it makes them feel
- Down time and wrap up, making sure children and young people feel safe and secure.

Background:

Children and families living with cancer have a unique set of emotional challenges. This is especially paramount when faced with traumatizing life events, separation from loved ones, loneliness, seclusion, invasive medical procedures, surgeries and drug therapies. There is much impairment to emotional well being including:

- Emotional problems
- Interpersonal problems
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Phobias
- Separation and Attachment disorders
- Self esteem issues
- Body image concerns

Kenzie's Gift has a specialist team consisting of community based, play & creative and expressive specialists, and art/music therapists who can help. We provide support from the point of diagnosis through treatment and beyond.

We have been fortunate to have Lorna Wood join the team in the capacity of consultant and practitioner. Lorna specialises in children's grief and loss, working at both Starship Children's Hospital and her own practice in Remuera. Lorna has a strong focus on family and how chronic and life threatening illnesses impact on the lives of families. It is wonderful for Kenzie's Gift to be able to offer Lorna's services to families affected by cancer in the Auckland area. Thanks Lorna.

As a wee reminder, here are the aims of Kenzie's Gift:

- To encourage and allow the family/child themselves to have as "normal" a childhood and family life as possible through appropriate play opportunities, therapies and supports.
- To encourage the opportunity for extended family and whanau to participate in play, therapies and supports with them which aim to enhance communicative and expressive opportunities.
- To provide ongoing support for families and whanau through survivorship or bereavement.
- Upon the family's request, liaise with schools and relevant groups which are an integral part of their lives, offering support, education and advice around the families and child's needs.

This is the time of year, where we would also like to thank our entire group of sponsor's for their continued and ongoing support. Check out our fab crew here: <http://www.kenziesgift.com/sponsors.html>.

Special thanks also go out the pupils of Stanley Bay School, Peter and Sam from Atlas Plumbing and Louise Mitchell for your tremendous fundraising efforts this year. Leon Hartnett, Val Wood, Pippa Turley, Rachel and Tim Kellerher, Diva Business Solutions, Jacqueline Harrison, Donal Barry and our many volunteers who have given us so much of your wonderful time a big thank you. Each and every one of you have helped so much and have enabled us to get Kenzie's Gift to where it is today.

Nic's annual challenge for 2010 will be...

The ARC 24 HR ADVENTURE RACE!

The time is upon me once again to set my annual challenge to promote positive lives with cancer, the benefit of sport and of course...much needed funds for KG. This is my biggest challenge to date and you will be able to follow my training progress in the weeks to come as I get my twitter and facebook page linked into the KG website (watch this space). This year I have a few fabulous and dedicated women joining me, Vesna Radonich and Nicky Adair, and we are finalising our final daring team member! Big thanks to Andy Reid from ARC for supporting us in our efforts, as well as Debbie Chambers from Girls on Top and Rob and Marquita Gelderman for their time and advice. No doubt it will be hard yakka...but hey...we like our challenges.

This just means another chapter is added to the book ☺

Thank you to you all and have a wonderful festive season ahead.

Kenzie's Gift has more gorgeous Christmas Cards on sale this year, so please email us at kenziesgift@kenziesgift.com to order your pack...designed and produced by Benefitz.

Looking forward to the New Year ahead and sharing more joy with our families.