

S P R I N G 2 0 1 2

the  
**NGF Newsletter**

Spring 2012



## How did the Naqaga Giving Foundation help Fijians in January, February, and March 2012?

### Bula!

You're getting this newsletter because you signed up for our mailing list or have donated to NGF before. We want to tell you, as part of our community of giving, where your money is going and how you are helping those Fijians in need. We are very grateful for your continued support and we welcome any input or questions you might have about our work, Fiji, or its people. We are always on the lookout for volunteers so if you believe you have knowledge or skills useful in our work, send an email to [volunteer@fijicharity.org](mailto:volunteer@fijicharity.org)!

**Vinaka Vakalevu!!!**

The Native Tongue... we want to teach you Fijian!

**Bula**  
(said as Hello)

An informal greeting which means "Life."

**Vinaka Vakalevu**  
(Thank you very much)

Casual but polite appreciation

**Vacava Tiko?**  
(How are you?)

In Fijian writing the letter C has a "th" sound.





## Cyclone Thomas

**The tradition of storytelling is strong in Fiji. We like to tell you stories so you can learn more about Fijian culture and our work.**

In March of 2010, Fiji was struck by the full force of Cyclone Thomas. While Cyclones and Hurricanes are essentially the same thing, their strength is measured slightly differently. Cyclone Thomas was technically stronger than Hurricane Katrina, which hit New Orleans with such destruction.

Cyclone Thomas hit Northern Fiji and caused 100% crop loss in many isolated communities, leaving them with no food as well as damaged homes and limited or zero utilities, including water.

This storm attracted little attention from around the world because there was not a large loss of life.

NGF's Executive Director, Max Cross, went to see the damage the morning the storm finally ended. Villagers were already clearing the roads, cutting fallen trees with cane knives, repairing water supplies wherever possible, repairing and cleaning as much as they could, knowing the cleanup will probably take months. Max saw a man he has known well for many years and asked him, "How are you and your family after the storm?"

"Set, Set," (all fine) came the Fijian's answer, before he went back to tidying his community with a smile.

Max knew that this man lived in a corrugated iron home constructed of pieces found rather than bought and he was surprised that this structure survived such a ferocious storm, so Max asked about the house too, to which the Fijian said "Well, the roof blew off, but we found it again in the morning and we nailed it back on, so no problem." It transpired that this man, his wife and his children huddled together throughout the night in a home without a roof during one of the biggest storms to hit the area in twenty years, but within hours, it was already not worth mentioning and when pressed for information, "no problem" is how it was described. This is a fine example of the Fijian people and how





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they face adversity which would knock many people to their knees, and not only do they carry on without complaint, but carry on while laughing and singing as they repair the damage done.

Despite all their efforts to help themselves, there are still many areas where Fijian’s helping themselves just isn’t possible.

## Our work in January, February and March 2012

### Medical Center

NGF’s Savusavu Medical Center treated over one thousand patients. The center was built and subsidized by NGF. The clean, modern facility includes two procedure rooms, two overnight rooms, two doctor’s offices, and care from the only non-government doctor in the area. The Medical Center is a major and on-going project of the Foundation.



## Our Projects

### Women's Groups

NGF is providing primary funding to two women's groups in the Cakaudrove province. These groups visit women in need of assistance or understanding ears, particularly those experiencing domestic violence or other martial troubles. This is an ongoing project.



### Veterinary Facility

NGF provided a veterinary facility (the building, surgical tables, water, electricity, refrigeration, etc.), which NGF had tailor-made for visiting vets to use at no charge. This is the only dedicated veterinary clinic in the nearest five islands. Every appointment slot was filled. The vets described the facility as "the best they have seen anywhere in Fiji."

### Computer Teacher

NGF is providing full funding for a computer teacher at St. Bedes College, one of only two Secondary Schools near Savusavu, without which the children would not be able to learn about or use computers at school. This is an ongoing project.



### Christmas Transport

Provided transport for two young children separated from their parents during Christmas. NGF also provided food, and return fare for a responsible person to escort the children on their 19-hour journey to the Nation's western side.

## Our Projects (cont.)

### Church Group

NGF is providing funding to Naidi Village Methodist Church Group, which is involved in construction and maintenance of buildings inside the village. This is an ongoing project.



### Special Needs

NGF is providing total funding for the care of a girl with special needs (seizures resulting from childhood trauma). Funding provides her with a clean, stable, loving environment in which to live and be taken care of. This is an ongoing project.

### Jobs

Provided employment and ongoing training to 30 people in a community where few jobs are available. Much of this paid work is not full-time but temporary as well. Providing employment is a powerful tool in raising the standard of living in our impoverished areas.



### Land

NGF provided land to 30 farmers, producing many crops for their families, the community and for a financial income. This is an ongoing project

## Our Projects (cont.)

### Experimental Farm

The NGF Experimental Organic Farm sold, at below market rates, foods and honey not grown by subsistence farmers to those in the immediate area. Money from sales does not cover the project costs but 100% of sales money goes back into NGF projects.



### The Single Mother

NGF provided groceries and baby supplies (formula, wet wipes, laundry detergent, etc.) to a jobless single mother with 2-month-old twins. Internet connection at NGF's main facility is made available to this single mother so she can learn parenting techniques (and check Facebook too, obviously).

### Cultural Exchange

NGF brought 37 village children to Naqaqa's main facility in Savusavu, where they met American children and exchanged stories of life in these very different environments. The Fijian children learned what school life is like overseas, and they all had pizza (most had never had pizza before!); the American children learned a lot too.



### School Fees

NGF funded in full the school fees and school supplies for two children of a handicapped man (both legs gone), who provides food and shelter for his family by selling items he has made.

## Our Projects (cont.)

If you haven't yet,  
check out our new  
website at  
[www.fijicharity.org!](http://www.fijicharity.org)

### Immersion 2012

Launched the Immersion 2012 project for US college students. This project raises funds for charitable projects, increases awareness about Fiji's needs, and brings volunteers to Fiji. An NGF rep visited Yale University, Trinity College, Wellesley College, UMass Amherst, Amherst College and **twenty other schools**, See this link for more:

<http://www.fijicharity.org/volunteering2/immersion-2012/>



### And the rest...

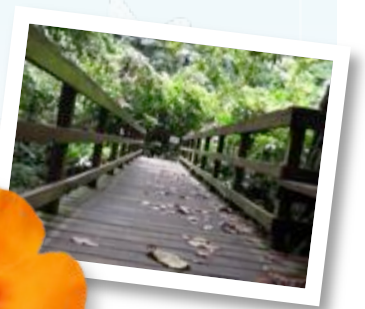
- NGF is providing Internet connectivity as well as computers to two villages for use by students, study groups, and individuals. This is an ongoing project.
- NGF provided electricity to 8 households in impoverished villages by paying the electric bill.
- NGF volunteers distributed clothing, sports equipment, and footwear to villagers in the remote north of Fiji.
- NGF provides two days a week of childcare to a single working mother, without which she could not afford to go to work.
- NGF provided scholarships to full school fees to many children in six different schools.
- NGF provided an oscillating fan to a village household.
- NGF provided housing to students studying in the capital city of Suva and a young man in Nadi.
- NGF began funding a new school year for a successful student from Zimbabwe. This boy's mother has AIDS, his father died of AIDS, and one of his brother has AIDS.
- NGF donated books and magazines to the public library in Savusavu.
- NGF donated medicine and medical supplies to the community (distributed by the Savusavu Medical Center).
- Received a grant from Google toward advertising and promoting our mission to an international audience.
- Received a grant from Salesforce toward building up our donor management capacity.



# Thank you!

Without your help, none of this would have been possible. Supporters like you encourage us to press onward and continue improving the health, education and wellbeing of Fijians living in remote villages. We hope you enjoyed our first newsletter of the year – look for another in a couple months. Until then...

Vinaka Vakalevu!



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