

# Immersion 2012

Volunteer in Fiji







## 31% of Fijians live in poverty

Over the past 7 years the Naqaqa Giving Foundation has implemented programs in education, healthcare, infrastructure and agriculture to assist Fijians living in remote villages.

The Naqaqa Giving Foundation wants you to come to Fiji to help improve the lives of thousands of people living in poverty. As a volunteer, you can help us extend our services across Fiji's 300 islands. We want you to come at **no cost** to you.

We simply ask that you fundraise a portion of your fee, and we cover the remainder. You probably have a few questions...

### Why Fijians?

31% of Fijians live in absolute poverty. Few have access to healthcare, a reliable food source, or a living wage. Because there is no war or widespread famine, the country is often overlooked by world media and large aid organizations. In an area that relies nearly entirely on tourism, the collapse in the world economy has left few jobs for even the most qualified individuals. Simply: people need help in Fiji.

### What is NGF's mission?

The Foundation, begun 7 years ago by a single sustaining donor, has developed and demonstrated programs in health care, education, and infrastructure that have measurably improved these conditions at model sites. As a veteran organization in Fiji, NGF has learned how to construct and manage these programs in a manner consistent with Fijian custom and culture. While we herald our tangible assets – our new medical center, 190-acre farm and computer program at a local high school – we are most proud of the standard of giving and community we have inspired among remote villages throughout the northern islands.



## The Love of Learning

Lack of job prospects post-graduation pushes many children to drop out of school early and work on their parents' farm. Volunteer in one of our four schools and show students the power of education.

Travel to Fiji. Discover an overlooked community desperately in need of assistance. Work in our medical center, farm or selection of schools. See the results of your efforts. Immediately.

tangible assets – our new medical center, 190-acre farm and computer program at a local high school – we are most proud of the standard of giving and community we have inspired among remote villages throughout the northern islands.

Yet, without the capacity to partner with mainstream funders, we will never be able to replicate our successful programs in other parts of Fiji, where the need remains dire. At our first medical clinic on the outlying island of Koro, as one example, hundreds of villagers materialized with ailments that had been eroding their health for years. Many had never seen a health care professional. Our core support has enabled us to make three medical expeditions to eight remote islands, but the need is much greater, and only by building programmatic and funding partnerships can we begin to meet it.

### How can I make a difference?

The first step in building these partnerships is communicating our important mission to mainstream funders, whether they are larger non-profits, corporations or major givers. The best way to communicate our message is through the experience of volunteers. So... we invite you to come to Fiji!

We have designed a program that will not only leave you with the experiences to return stateside and speak passionately about Fiji, but also create tangible benefits for people who need your help. Whether traveling to remote Fijian islands on our exclusive humanitarian



## Volunteering spreads awareness for our cause, creates a developmental benefit in a community that needs it, and provides you with an amazing experience in Fiji!

expedition or spear fishing with locals, you will help extend our programmatic reach to some of the most remote areas in Fiji. Because we believe so passionately in our cause, we want to bring you to Fiji at **no cost to you**.

### What do I do on the trip? How long is it?

The trip is broken down into two sections: mainland volunteering and a humanitarian expedition across the South Pacific. Mainland volunteering makes up the bulk of the trip, as volunteers live in a village on the island of Vanua Levu and work within one of NGF's programs. You can work the farmland, assist in the medical center, or teach at one of our four schools, among many other options. Volunteers can also construct their own program – NGF maintains nearly every human services program imaginable, and you can create your own initiative that reflects your passion and interests. Some programs require pre-trip learning, in which volunteers must take short classes on commercial farming or first aid, for example.

NGF has arranged a 7-day expedition on the *Tui Tai Adventure Cruise* for all of our volunteers. *National Geographic* rates the Tui Tai as some of the “best adventure travel on earth.” Volunteers will visit remote beaches, snorkel over incredible reefs and experience the most breathtaking locations across northern Fiji. Volunteers will also visit remote villages, bringing NGF donations to those in need. Additionally, volunteers preserve Fijian tradition by creating oral history reports from interviews with elderly villagers. You have the unique opportunity to help people living in paradise – it is a trip you will never forget.

### How does it work?

Qualified applicants fundraise a significant

portion of their **\$11,000** program fee. This program fee includes all costs associated with travel, housing, food, administrative support, and the *Tui Tai* humanitarian cruise. **NGF has received a \$4,500 grant PER STUDENT!** So all you have to do is **raise \$6,500** and NGF provides you with a matching grant to cover the rest of the fee! Because we are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, all donations to NGF are tax-deductible. NGF will help you fundraise every step of the way – begin by checking out our fundraising toolkit!

Donations are processed online through your personal fundraising page on StayClassy.org. Set up is simple – you can merge your page with social media, keep track of your donations, and automatically send out thank you letters!

Once you have raised \$6,500, we will take care of the rest. We will arrange all travel and lodging accommodations, as well as provide you with a pre-departure kit. All you have to do is pack your bag and get on the plane.

### Why should I participate? What will I gain from it?

The *Immersion* program offers you a unique opportunity to travel to a place you never thought you would visit and help people at the same time. Our program also gives you international field experience – a standout prerequisite for careers in the non-profit and international development sectors. If you want to experience life in a developing country, see paradise, and make a meaningful impact in a forgotten community, the *Immersion* program is for you.

We want you to have an unforgettable trip to Fiji. We will work with you every step of the way to make sure that you do. Come to Fiji and share in our vision. Paradise needs your help.

“The eight-island tour I went on over Thanksgiving break was truly an amazing experience. I must admit, I have traveled to many places around the world... but this by far was the most hands-on, fun, exciting, educational and heartfelt vacation I have ever been on.”

-NGF Volunteer

#### **What will my volunteering fund? What would donations fund?**

In 2010, volunteers created and donations funded the following:

- 1 private health clinic complete with two consultation rooms, two overnight rooms, two doctor's offices, and a doctor's quarters – the area's first private health clinic
- 1 pharmacy complete with over 200 medicines imported from Australia, New Zealand and the United States – the first pharmacy in the province
- 3500 patient consultations, at \$4 USD a consultation
- 50 harvests in the community farm project
- 23 Fijians/Indo-Fijians receiving full time employment
- 3 new homes given to students without local housing
- 43 days of the Naqaqa Early Education Project, the province's first preschool
- 301 meals served to mothers and children at the Naqaqa Early Education project
- 10 advanced education scholarships
- 300 gallons of honey procured from the NGF Apiary
- 8 families given free electricity
- 38 scholarships given out to primary and secondary students, covering tuition, books and uniforms
- 2 villages provided with internet networking
- 1 women's ministry funded
- 1 computer teacher hired to create first computer program at local high school
- 80 books donated to local libraries
- 1 water system installed in Naidi Village
- 3 wheel chairs donated

If you're ready to begin your journey, fill out the “Immersion Application” and submit it to [immersion@fijicharity.org](mailto:immersion@fijicharity.org)! Once you are approved, we will send you our fundraising toolkit and help you set up your fundraising page!

Welcome and *Vinaka Vakalevu!*