



DAYS FOR GIRLS

Every Girl | Everywhere | Period.

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Recent orders that NZ teams have completed

Loas

Sumatra

Philippines

Fiji

Sri Lanka

India

Solomon Islands

Zambia

Uganda

New Zealand

This comes to a total of nearly 900 kits since October last year! Well done and a huge thank you to everyone who helped us make and distribute these kits!



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018. It will be an exciting year with the visit of Celeste and Tiffany! We look forward to seeing a lot of you at our conference.

HealthPost

HealthPost is an online shop that specialises in natural health, skincare and household products. They have recently given us a wonderful opportunity! For every purchase you make at HealthPost they donate a certain amount to a charity. They have two charities each month and you can choose which one your money goes to. Farewell Spit is always one of these charities (and if you have never been there, we can tell you that it is fabulous and well worth a visit). The other charity varies from month to month and their charity for April is Days for Girls New Zealand! HealthPost has a wide range of items, from health supplements, to organic shampoos to my favourite - menstrual cups! Not only will you be buying some great quality products, you can also support some fantastic charities while doing so! So go check them out at www.healthpost.co.nz

Partnerships

There has been an exciting partnership developed by DfGI and Altrusa International! Some Altrusa clubs have been involved in DfG for a while now but this partnership will bring many more women into the DfG team! Altrusa International is a global volunteer service organization whose purpose is to promote better communities through service. It is the spirit of altruism to give selflessly and to share human and financial resources in their local communities. So being involved in Days for Girls fits this mandate perfectly. There are over 300 clubs world wide and 19 clubs throughout NZ. We are excited to welcome all new Altrusa members to the team!



Another partnership that has recently started is between Central Hawkes Bay Probus and CHB College (along with some funds from the local Rotary Club)! Some of the Probus members are going into the school and making shields, while the senior students are making the bags and liners. It's a great example of community involvement and it's cool to see so many different groups working together!

Kenya

If you are sending kits to Kenya you may have noticed that you can no longer send the ziplock bags with them as Kenya has banned plastic bags. DfGI has developed a transport bag, made of PUL, which replaces the zip locks. These are quite time consuming to make so they will need to be factored into orders for Kenya. We found that ours came out a bit short, so to give yourself a bit of leeway (and on the assumption that it is better for them to be larger than smaller), we would add 1/2-1" to the pattern.

Let's talk pockets!

These get a lot of wear as the liners get taken in and out frequently, so a lot of stress is put on them. As such, it's important that they are the correct size - the finished size should be 3 1/4" for the opening - this is so the liners fit in easily and less stress is placed upon them. They should be about 2 1/4" deep. The pockets also get stained so please use your most stain busting fabric! It needs to be both dark and patterned. DfGI also asked that the pocket fabric matches on each side.

Beeswax Wraps Fundraiser

One of newest supporters is also fundraising for us. She is making beeswax wrappers. They are for sale on TradeMe (search for bees wax wraps, the seller is vivien4 and she mentions DfG in the product description). Her beeswax wraps are lovely to use and smell absolutely divine! Many thanks to Vivienne - we rely entirely on donations so we really appreciate your efforts.

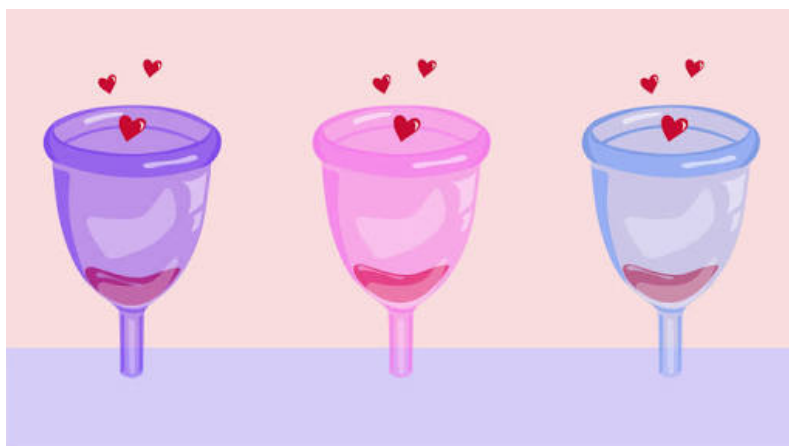


Ethiopia

You may recall that last year we sent a trial of menstrual cups to Ethiopia. Here's the report we received back!

"I have updated information on how the women are using the menstrual cups. Consequently, I had all of them talking about the benefits of using the cup. They emphasise three things: its durability, the fact that it doesn't consume soap and how easy it is for them to clean. I have seen the facial expression of Mulue who explained to me on behalf the other women who used it. They are enjoying it and finding it very good to use. They save the DfG kits for the younger girls who attend school, whereas, the cup is suitable for the older women"

We would like to to thank the United Sustainable Sisters for the use of their information and instructions on the use and care of menstrual cups.



Some beautiful letters from girls in Fiji who have received DFG kits.

P.O. Box 1409
Tavua
Fiji
5th February 2018

Dear wellwisher,

I would like to thank you for a beautiful gift. As it was very useful and helpful for me, especially demanding for school days.

Wishing all the best and success to the organisation (Days for Girl). hope to meet you in future, once again thank you very much for the Gift

Yours sincerely

Peni



Let me say thank you for the gift
And more thanks for your thought
The greatest thing I can thank you for
is all the joy you've brought.

Wo. Thank you

Let this cycle
of appreciation
end with these
words of gratitude
on do we need
to take this
outside this

Thank
you



Finally, the latest newsletter from Papua New Guinea



Meri's Malo

Wendy Christie

wendy@christie.co.nz



Dear Friends,

The journey on the YWAM Medical PNG ship to various villages in the HUON GULF from LAE was an adventure of a lifetime.

My colleague Corette Bulog was also on the YWAM ship, and some of her thoughts are penned below.



Hygiene & basic washing was beyond one's comprehension, as many do not have WATER, which is the Basic need, & have to walk 1/2hr to the stream, and others have tanks **but** with holes in the bottom!!!

Toilets- some drop-toilets in the village, whilst others have to do their "pek-pek poo" in the sea, & also wash their clothes & themselves in the sea????!!!!



Men's toilet over the sea

The subject of 'Menstruation' or their 'Sick Moon', as they refer to is a cultural bridge far from our & their understanding.

It's the shame heaped upon these young innocent meri's/women who are still today isolated, maybe in a 'hut' away from their family during their 'period' for a 'period' of time!!!!

The number of kits assigned as a resource from village to village was by FAR in the minority- given the no's of young meri's each seeking to secure their own shame of menstruation.



The 200 of the Days for Girls KITS taken on the YWAM ship were mainly stitched by the women in 'Buimo'prison here in LAE.



Our Team

Our team has expanded to 5. Ann Antrobus- or our calculating Queen, and Alida Nel- Queen of overlocking have joined the group, and are very committed to sewing for DfG



Our Partners

The women from Brian Bell presented to DfG a sewing machine they had all contributed towards.



Correte's story

Wendy and I were lucky to be going to the same village for the first few days and in her Community Engagement role she could distribute the much needed DfG kits and I would follow up with the Women's Health talk. We were so fortunate to have Lucy, a nurse from Angua hospital here in Lae on board and she did a wonderful job translating the content to the very attentive audience. Being a national herself ensured that the message was delivered in a very direct, accurate and often humorous manner! My two weeks on board the YWAM PNG MV was such an amazingly positive experience for so many reasons but mainly due to the fact that 200 girls and meri's (women) are now proud owners of their DfG kits which were sewn by their 'sisters' in the Morobe province. My final observation relates to the volunteers and crew - it was inspiring to have witnessed a group of 120 people originating from 19 different nations come together, all from differing backgrounds, professions and cultures who worked collaboratively and respectfully together as a team, to improve the lives and health of the local PNG population - now that was impressive and some might say, even blessed!

Nestle

Just last week was our trip to Goroka, and on to Kesevaks Village Base Camp some 1 1/2hrs from Goroka, where we had an amazing welcome by the villagers. Nestle is assisting the local villagers to plant coffee trees, and reap the beans selling them to the AKK co-op which should yield an earning of K15 per family = \$6.40. We were asked to distribute 140 DfG kits to the women in the area, with Corette providing the health education. Again the No. of kits, only skimmed the surface....



PLANS AFOOT

We plan on reaching ALL the young school girls in LAE providing them with a DaysforGirls Kit, so guess have our sewing 'cut' out for us!!!

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY:

An ongoing goal to reach out to the local community, for ownership and to be fully sustained.

Several folk have mentioned their interest in assisting with DfG.

SUPPORT:

Areas we still require support and help are as follows:

- As always, finance as most of our recipients do not have financial means to pay for a kit.
- Help in getting the supplies for the kits to PNG.

Mi lukim yu

Wendy & the Meri's Malo Team