

**YOUTH FOR CHRIST**  
**St Theresa's Catholic Church**  
**Lepea**

**Background:**

Catholic YFC Lepea would like to send a minimum of 2 delegates to the Youth for Christ Oceania Leaders Conferene 13-15 April 2007. To raise funds for the 2 delegates' airfares and conference fees, we approached UNESCO to assist us in our fund-raising activities.

UNESCO, under the Youth Visioning Program, agreed to give us USD\$2000 on condition that we do 5 activities, namely:

- 1) Visit and help 12 needy families in the rural villages;
- 2) Visit, entertain and clean-up Vailoa Home for the Elderly Nuns
- 3) Organize and conduct "Family Night"
- 4) Organise and conduct a Youth Camp
- 5) Visit, entertain and give gifts to Mapuifagalele Home for the Aged

**Visits to Needy Families (July 2006 to January 2007)**

This activity was held in conjunction with the Society of St Vincent de Paul. The Society identified the families to be visited and accompanied us to the families. We gave the families food, clothes and monetary donations. We were supposed to visit only 12 families but we made repeat visits to families needing special attention.

The Society taught us how to behave when visiting families, especially those with disabilities. We learned how to find out the families' needs without offending them. Of the families visited, 2 had children who were deaf, one had 2 blind members, one had 4 blind and spastic children, one had a child needing a wheelchair, one had a leper as head of the family. The rest were families so poor that their children could not go to school or were unhealthy.

Families visited were that of:

Malia (Leauva'a)	2 visits
Semi Pipi (Vaisigano)	1 visit
Lini Tuanai (Leauva'a)	2 visits
Luka & Kalamoku Lumanai (Leauva'a)	1 visit
Tupai Koka (Leauva'a)	1 visit
Saufatu (Ualesi, Leauva'a)	1 visit
Fiailoa Pati (Ualesi, Leauva'a)	1 visit
Leper (Leauvaa')	1 visit
Litia Solomona (Tufulele)	2 visits
Taleni and Susi (Faleatai)	2 visits
Sesina Filipo (Matautu)	1 visit
Sanele Sagote (Ualesi, Leauva'a)	1 visit

**Visit, entertain and clean-up Vailoa Home for Elderly Nuns (August 2006)**

Aside from entertaining the old and sick nuns with singing and dancing, the youth cleaned up the grounds and presented monetary gifts, food and non-perishable cleaning items. This was one activity where there are no video footages or pictures because our “camera man” did not know how to take pictures in dark and overcast surroundings.

**Organise and conduct “Family Night” (September 2006)**

This was a fun activity for the youth and their families. Family members presented items and joined in the talent quest and games. Parents helped in organising and preparing the event. They took charge of conducting raffles, serving dinner and cleaning up.

This event taught us how to plan and organise. We recognised what talents we had. We also learned the value of working together.

**Organise and conduct a Youth Camp (November 2006)**

The Youth Camp was held at Tofamamau after the school exams were over. Since one of our aims is to increase membership to YFC, we invited the youth of other parishes to attend. We had 35 participants who stayed in from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Through talks, group discussions, games and prayer sessions, we bonded with like-minded youth and learned leadership and teamwork. We were made to become aware and responsive of our families’, our friends’ and our communities’ needs.

A mission team from YFC Australia helped the local team of speakers to run the camp.

**Visit, entertain and give gifts to Mapuifagalele Home for the Aged**

We visited the aged at the end of the school year. There were about 40 elderly men and women who watched our items with interest. We gave them mainly items for cleaning as requested by the nuns who run the place. However there were plenty of non-perishable foodstuffs. We also gave a monetary donation.

Thank you

We thank UNESCO for giving us the chance to understand what volunteering means. All our five activities demanded that we volunteer our time, talents and efforts. We have learned that and have also been able to raise funds for our participants to the Youth leaders Conference in Australia as well.

Submitted by: Enele Westerlund  
President, 2006  
YFC (Lepea Chapter)  
28 February 2007

## **SURVEY & ATTITUDES TOWARDS VOLUNTEERISM**

### **Respondents**

There were 33 respondents to the questionnaire when it was first administered. However there were only 20 who answered the questionnaire at the end of the project. More than half of those who were not able to answer the questionnaire have gone overseas for studies.

Profile: 22 girls and 11 boys for the first questionnaire. 14 girls and 6 boys for the end-of-project questionnaire.

Majority of respondents are Catholics and are students in the 15 to 17 years old age bracket. The older respondent was 26, while the youngest was 13. Majority are in the Year 12-13 level.

Respondents come from families where there are 1-2 income earners. Income earners are professionals and trades people. 11 respondents have income from family businesses and 7 receive regular overseas remittances.

25 respondents had experience in volunteering before. Their volunteering experience ranged from social service (visiting hospital, old people, etc.), community/church service and sports. Service lasted for a minimum of 1 day and a maximum of 2 years.

All those who were surveyed at the end of the project said they would like to do volunteer work again but indicated that they would prefer to do environment-related volunteer work aside from social work. A small minority wanted to devote time as sports volunteer.

Probably because respondents are mostly students who have to devote time to their studies, most said that they can do volunteer only once a month. They think that their parents will be supportive of their activities provided the parents are informed of what their children are involved in.

As for role models, the 2006 YFC president got the highest vote. The youth admired him for finding time to YFC and its members. A far second is Mother Theresa because “she helps others”. Diana, Princess of Wales and Oprah Winfrey came third for “their work in helping others.”

Our activities for this project have certainly made us more aware of the needs of others on the family and community level. We have also become aware that there are volunteering activities in the area of environment and sports.

Mataniu Pone, YFC president 2007