



SCF FUNDAMENTAL REASON

*To provide hope for the sick and disadvantage children of Simbu.
To fund the medically ill children who require complex operation or medication not available locally.*

We believe every child deserves to feel loved, to be safe, to have opportunities for a better future and to know that there will always be someone to care for them. Every child deserves a bright beginning and the chance to determine the course of his or her own destiny

BRAVE HEARTS 2010 SPECIAL



Mayblyln (insert), (L to R) Christina & mum, Grace & mum, Abraham's dad and Joe Tonar & mum

The Operation Open Heart (OOH) started in 1993 and for the last 17 years has saved many patients especially children. Patients from Simbu at times never made it as one mother recalled in 2008 when her son was short listed but due to lack of funds she was told she couldn't fly her son to POM. With tears in her eyes she hugged her son and headed back to the foggy mountains.

Simbu Children Foundation is for the children of Simbu. Children are dying in our mountain villages from heart problems, kidney problems, bone problems etc but we are so busy in our own world that we do not have time to reflect on such matters. Surely one would say it's not my problem, true but one of the greatest things you can do while you're still alive is putting a smile on a dying kid's face. There are children who are sent back to the villages because there are no medications, because it's too costly or because there are no specialist for operation etc. They are supplied basic prescription drugs such as pain killers but the real pain lingers in the eyes of the child and in the hearts of the parents. They turn back to the foggy mountains where some never come back. They are part of the history that exits silently out of this world.

Jimmy Dre Kore - 2005

"We give without hesitation, we hug when you expect a hand, our tears express our hearts - they call us Simbus"



BRAVE HEARTS 2010 SPECIAL



Abraham's dad smiles after spending years in the hospital

I MADE THE CALL

“Abraham Ku, the critically ill patient wasn't a child, he was 22 and according to the SCF constitution children eligible for SCF funding must be ages from zero to fifteen. When Dr Dama told me about Abraham's case I made the call and decided Abraham should join the children.”

Jimmy Drecore
President

In 2009 SCF took on the challenge to fund heart patients for this vital operation. The same mother brought her son to Lae for the screening with doubt and pain. To her surprise her travel, accommodation and other associated costs were met by this strange group called Simbu Children Foundation. Her pain and doubt were washed away as she could once again hold her son with confidence as he would grow up like any other normal kid. Peter Maima, one of the original Brave Hearts returned home with smiles in 2009. SCF sponsored 4 patients, lost one but 3 were successful in their operation and all returned home.

In Simbu there were 12 listed to travel to Angau. Of the 12, one came from Western Highlands thus went back to Mt Hagen to join the other patients in Western Highlands. Eleven were listed as patients from Simbu hence two vehicles were arranged, a mini bus and the hospital ambulance. Ten patients and their parents arrived but they couldn't leave as one of the patients was not present. They waited several hours but to no avail.



A brief moment with Prof. Tefuarani and team

It was getting late so the ten patients started their long journey from the four corner town. Of the ten patients Abraham Ku & Christina Brian were critically ill hence were supported by oxygen and under the watchful eyes of Dr Dama and Sister Agnes. The parents and guardians accompanying the 10 patients were hoping they didn't lose anyone on the road especially when two were on oxygen support.

This year again SCF took onboard the challenge and awaited for the confirmed numbers. Professor Nakapi Tefuarani MB BS, DCH, MMed, FACTM, PhD Head of Child Health Discipline, SM&HS, Coordinator PNG Paediatric Cardiac Services went around the country and screened patients to be short listed. Those short listed were to travel to Angau Memorial Hospital in Lae for the final screening before heading to POM for the OOH.

They climbed Daulo slowly fading into the mist, behind them the rugged mountains changes from green to blue like a mother with frozen tears not knowing what would happen to her children. They descended slowly to Yonki and a sign of relief but it was the fake sea as the real one was still miles away, they were not there yet, Christina and Abraham were still breathing. A bit of relaxation when the first coconut tree was seen at Water Rice, they knew it was going to be smooth sailing but Christina and Abraham had to hold on. They arrived at Angau in the night hence admitted to the ward.



BRAVE HEARTS 2010 SPECIAL

In the next two days everyone started to go through the screening and finally 6 got short listed for the OOH. The other 4 were given the OK to return home as their cases were not too serious.

Unfortunately the father of one of the kids did not consent to letting his son go through the OOH. Dr Dama and Sister Agnes tried talking him through on the phone as he was still in Simbu but he was adamant. The wife tried in vein to convince the husband but sadly to say this little boy had to return home. Of the 5 candidates there was another problem: Abraham Ku, the critically ill patient wasn't a child, he was 22 and according to the SCF constitution children eligible for SCF funding must be ages from zero to fifteen. When Dr Dama told me about Abraham's case I made the call and decided Abraham should join the children. After that decision was made all the logistics were arranged for the 5 confirmed patients. We gave them the name Brave Hearts 2010. Their trip from Lae to Nadzap was filled with joy but at the same time there were some anxiousness about what will really happen during that operation. When arrived at Nadzap the nervousness was put aside when Abraham for the first time stood up and walked up the stairs of Fokker 100 to everyone's surprise. (Remember he was on oxygen support all this time). Those who were there were filled with confidence as that was a sign of determination to fight and survive



Abraham is supported by Sister Agnes (Photo in Lae)

They arrived in POM and headed straight to POM General Hospital (POMGEN). In the ensuing days one by one would go through the operation. SCF collected all the well wishes around the world and forwarded to them to remind them that they were not alone. Finally I was told all had gone through the operation successfully but only one, Mayblynn Kaglwaim was deferred to 2011 as time caught up for the operation program. I flew to POM on the 14th July and headed straight to POMGEN to visit the Brave Hearts. The world lit up as I saw their glowing smiles and their parents came with huge hugs that sent peace through my heart. I couldn't have been more satisfied, mission accomplished.

Now I had to sort out all their travel back home but before I did some friends called to visit the brave hearts. Kennedy Wemin came to POMGEN at 1700hrs and gave me 5 envelopes with the names of each Brave Hearts on them. I told Kennedy if he could spend 5 minutes with me so he agreed and we went to the wards to see the Brave Hearts. He gave to each Brave Heart an envelope and explained to them, it was a little token to find a toy on their return journey home. For someone totally strange to come and acknowledge one's presence was enough to let the tears run down and cementing that sense of belonging. After sharing those few moments we came out and Kennedy left with peace in his heart. At 1900hrs Maria Wau and Bessie called to visit the Brave Hearts hence I went and brought the two ladies to the ward. They really flooded the Brave Hearts with fruits and juice. As we were going to each bed, Bessie who came from Melbourne for her study break couldn't have done anything more satisfying then to visit the Brave Hearts 2010 an experience she would remember a long time. Before we left the Brave Hearts, I told them I would sort out their travel the next day



Kennedy cheers little Joe Tonar

Before we left the Brave Hearts, I told them I would sort out their travel the next day

"We give without hesitation, we hug when you expect a hand, our tears express our hearts - they call us Simbus"



BRAVE HEARTS 2010 SPECIAL



Kennedy Wemin (Centre) visits little Christina

The following day the Air Niugini system in POM went down all day hence I wasn't able to sort out their travel that day. The next day (Wednesday 16th) I flew to Lae and headed straight to the Air Niugini in town and sorted out the Brave Hearts travel arrangements. When Dr Joe Kumbu from POMGEN confirmed receiving the tickets of the Brave Hearts I slipped into Unitech for the SCF presentation that evening.

At Unitech we had the SCF presentation at the mining lecture theatre. It was a packed room with students. We had a surprise visitor Rebecca Kiage from Team Adelaide also attended with family. The slides and the presentation really got the students interested in becoming SCF ambassadors. They were challenged to make a difference in their province when they step into their professional field and not get too absorbed in their world and pay less attention their roots.



Bessie & Maria with little Grace

Early next day I hit the Markham road and called Kundiawa General Hospital on my way up to come to Goroka and pick the Brave Hearts who were flying out of POM that afternoon. The Brave Hearts touched down in Goroka and were picked up by the ambulance while I was still somewhere between Kainantu and Goroka so told them to go ahead. In Simbu the following day I went to the hospital to catch up with the Brave Hearts only to be told, they already gone home...with a big grin I came to town and had a cold one....cheers to the Brave Hearts 2010....

Jimmy Drekore

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SIMBU CHILDREN FOUNDATION

SIMBUS HELPING SIMBUS

SCF

Website: www.simbuchildrenfoundation.org

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

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BRAVE HEARTS 2010 SPECIAL



Little Grace Tala with mum & dad back in Simbu: Paul Siwi, Simbu Coordinator, (far right) looks on

Dear SCF,

On our daughter's, Maybellyn Kaglwaim behalf and the other four Brave Hearts of 2010, my wife and I would personally like to sincerely thank the SCF for all the assistance towards the Brave Hearts of 2010. Without your assistance most of us would not have made it this far.

Special mention to some SCF members, who out of their kindness assisted the Brave Hearts in their own special ways, also those comments, endless inflow words of encouragement, well wishes and visitations.

We are really grateful and appreciative of such an organisation, our thoughts and prayers are with you, to the ever enthusiastic members of SCF keep up the spirit of oneness.

Thank you!

God Bless You All.

Mathew Francis

Dear SCF:

On behalf of the Five Brave Hearts of 2010, we the parents and guardians would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation and gratitude for your contribution in making our trip to this Operation Open Heart 2010, we are deeply grateful for your support and generosity.

It is through the support of individuals and such an Organisation like yours that we were able take our sons and daughters to undergo this open heart operation at Port Moresby.

As we approach the turn of the century, we strongly believe SCF will continue to lead the charge in providing assistance and specialized services to children in Simbu and around PNG and develop new and innovative programs to help the sick, underprivileged and orphan children of Simbu.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Parents and Guardians of the Five Brave Hearts.

"We give without hesitation, we hug when you expect a hand, our tears express our hearts - they call us Simbus"



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