

The Zoroastrian Youth of New Zealand (ZYNZ), the youth branch of Zarathushtrian Association of New Zealand, were appointed to organise the monumental event attended by young Zoros from all over the world: The World Zoroastrian Youth Congress. The sixth one will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, 2015 and the preparations are well under way with spirits being higher than ever. The ZYNZ have been working immensely hard since March 2011 to raise funds and look for the perfect venue to host the congress. The dates have been set for December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 till January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016, so mark your calendars boys and girls as this is one event you don't want to miss.

The ZYNZ have grown to be a tight knit team and as ambassadors of the Youth Congress, they feel it's imperative that their responsibilities as young Zoroastrians extend further than just organising the event. Zoroastrianism has been a model for philanthropy and as the saying goes, 'Charity begins at home', the ZYNZ have started giving back to the community they call home.

Below is an article giving a brief account about what the ZYNZ have been up to apart from organising the congress. We hope this ignites something in the reader's heart and inspires them to give back to their community, not just today but every day in one way or the other.

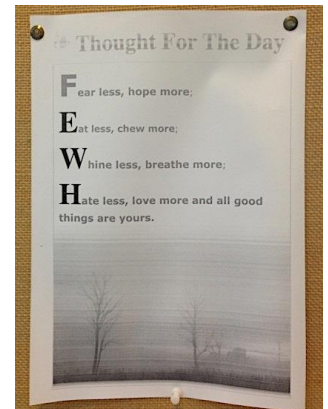
The ZYNZ support 'Jammies in June and July' to make a difference in their society.



Roxanne and Tinaz at their visit to Kids First Community health office.



Joanne with Tinaz and Roxanne accepting the pyjamas for 'Jammies in June'



'Thought of the day' on the walls of the Kidz First Community Health Office (3 August 2013)

## Thought for the day –

*"Fear less, hope more. Eat less, chew more. Whine less, breathe more. Hate less, love more; and all good things are yours".*

The essence of these words is only truly understood by your heart, which never fails to inspire. In July 2013 the Zoroastrian Youth of New Zealand (ZYNZ), the youth branch of The Zarathushtrian Association of New Zealand (ZANZ), found their inspiration in the Kidz First and Middlemore Hospital's project 'Jammies in June' which was further extended to July.

Kidz First Children's Hospital & Community Health is purpose built to provide *whanau* (family) focused medical, developmental, emotional and social care for Kiwi kids and their families, some of whom live in impoverished conditions. The Middlemore Foundation works to help charities like Kidz First to raise funds which go towards providing the best health support to young children and their families. Their project, 'Jammies in June', comprised of collecting warm flannelette pyjamas for children under the care of Kidz First aiming to reduce the high rates of preventable respiratory illnesses and readmissions to hospitals across New Zealand.

When the ZYNZ first heard about this project from a member of their community, Mrs Shernaz S Petigara, who is also the Admin Assistant at Kidz First Community Health, they embraced the opportunity and started campaigning during

the month of July. They managed to raise fifty-three pyjama sets as donations, to add to the 5700 pyjamas Kidz First had received from various different entities over the two months.

On behalf of ZYNZ, Tinaz Karbhari and Roxanne Medhora met with Joanne Hand, Relations and Fundraising Officer from the Middlemore Foundation, at the Kidz First Community Health office to hand over the pyjamas. At the meeting Joanne shared that the PJs were going out faster than they were coming in, highlighting their immense need. She expressed the importance of the appeal, turning their attention to the 'thought of the day' displayed in the office.

It's sombre to know that poverty still exists in our own backyard, but this only inspires and motivates the ZYNZ to help out more charities like Kidz First in the future. It reminds them to not fear and start hoping, start chewing, start breathing and start loving.

The ZYNZ would like to thank all their friends, families and colleagues who supported this project. A special thanks to Ms. Nazneen Daruwalla, a fashion student, who along with her supervisor hand-stitched five lovely pyjama sets to donate. The team would also like to thank Mr. Dinsha Mistree, who all the way from New Jersey, USA, took the time to buy pyjama sets online to be delivered to ZYNZ for this project.

ZYNZ congratulates the valiant efforts of people like Joanne, Shernaz and the staff of Middlemore Foundation and Kidz First who are working every day to make a difference in people's lives and inspiring others as they go along.