



REPORT OF THE COOK ISLANDS TRUSTEES

AUGUST 2018 - REPORT

INDEX

COMMUNITY GRANTS

1. Mitiaro Enea- Adult Diapers for Papa Kimiora Tereva
2. Mitiaro Enea-Sewing Materials for Girl's Brigade Company
3. Tupapa Constituency- Roofing Materials for Au Vaine Kumiti

2018

COMMUNITY GRANTS*

1.PAPA KIMIORA TEREVA, MITIARO- ADULT DIAPERS

Mitiaro is a small island in the Southern group islands of the Cook Islands. It is usually referred to in a collective with her sister islands of Atiu, and Mauke as Nga Pu Toru, due to its proximity to each other (approx. 45km apart) and shared history.

Mitiaro is of volcanic origin, surrounded by a belt of makatea (raised coral), and the centre of the island is flat and quite swampy. The island boasts the only freshwater lake in the Cook Islands that teems with eels and breem. Mitiaro also harbours some stunning subterranean limestone caves and pools.

Mitiaro is home to less than 200 people with 155 recorded residents in the 2016 Census. There is very little economy in Mitiaro, with limited employment available in Government administration positions. There are some government efforts in tourism development, however. this is limited with very few intrepid visitors to Mitiaro per year. The people of Mitiaro live a subsistence lifestyle and dependent on government to provide for most of their basic needs.



This grant was submitted by a concerned community member in aid of Papa Kimiora Tereva.

Papa Kimiora Tereva is 57 year old man who lives in Atai village of Mitiaro. Papa Kimi is completely incapacitated (blind, deaf and cannot walk). His sole caregiver is his 70 year old mother, Mrs Akamoe Tereva, who is also the main caregiver for two of her grandchildren, approximately 8 yrs and 10yrs.

Papa Kimiora was independent up until a few years ago, when he became incapacitated and unable to care for himself. Papa Kimiora lays in a wheelbarrow outside his mothers house all day, as he associates the wheelbarrow with a motorcycle he used to own. He gets very anxious and upset when his wheelbarrow is moved away from his spot. His elderly mother has to move him into the house in the evenings to bed.



Papa Kimiora does not have full control over his body so he regularly soils, and wets himself throughout the day. His 70-year old mother cleans him when she can after tending to other home duties and her grandchildren. Mrs Tereva, is solely responsible for feeding, bathing and clothing Papa Kimiora with very little support.

Mrs Tereva collects old age pension (\$300 per month) as well as a Government Care Giver's allowance (\$200 per month), relying on her grand-daughter who lives in Rarotonga with part-time employment, to buy adult diapers for Papa Kimi. She pays \$250 per carton and stretches its use over the span of two months.

Adult diapers are only available for sale in Rarotonga. Neither Papa Kimi's Care Giver's allowance, nor his niece's income is sufficient to cover the cost of the adult diapers and the cost of shipping them to Mitiaro. Due to this Papa Kimi has gone without adult diapers for some time.

A grant was approved by the Cook foundation to purchase 8 cartons of adult diapers, each carton holding 200 diapers assist the family, and ease the financial pressure on papa Kimi's family.

2. MITIARO GIRLS' BRIGADE COMPANY- SEWING EQUIPMENT



Cook Islands Girls Brigade

The Mitiaro girls' brigade Company have a number of young female members who are also unemployed mothers and young leaders within the organization. The young women significantly contribute and participate in all Mitiaro island initiatives and activities.

There is very little employment opportunities in Mitiaro, and these are limited to Government positions within the Mitiaro island council. There is very little economic activity or opportunity to provide employment and retain young people on the island. Despite this, the people of Mitiaro employ what little means they have to support their community and investigate initiatives that may provide them with financial means. To this end, the Mitiaro Girls' Brigade requested funding to assist with the purchase of equipment along with sewing and painting materials. They have specifically requested assistance in purchasing:

- 2x Sewing machine
- 1x Overlocker machine
- 1x 20m plain poplin material
- 3x Thread

The Mitiaro Girls' Brigade Company intends to use this equipment to share their local knowledge and skills with women within the ages of 12-30 years, to produce crafts and clothing apparel. They also intend to teach young women to market this merchandise at markets locally, or even export them to the main island of Rarotonga.

With the approval of this grant the island of Mitiaro hope stimulate economic activity and offer more employment options. Retaining their young adults to carry on working on the Island of Mitiaro.

2. AU VAINE KUMITI, TAKUVAINA- ROOFING MATERIALS

This request for assistance was submitted by “Te Au Vaine Kumiti” a womens charitable group helping the most vulnerable in the community.

In Mid March 2018 during a heavy down pour, a home in Tupapa sustained damage from a large Pistach tree on a neighbouring section falling onto the back verandah of the house.

The owner's of the house, Putara John Putara and his sister Tekura, had given the house to their family who had migrated from the outer island of Atiu, to live in as they try to make a life for themselves in Rarotonga. The outer island of Atiu has very limited economic and employment opportunities. The family consists of 6 adults (including one pregnant female and 1x destitute adult), and 3 children with a single income. They do not pay rent to the owners as they have all recently migrated from Atiu to Rarotonga for work, and need a place to live. They don't have the financial means to pay for accommodation costs.

The tree was cleared by Paul and his brother in law along with the assistance of the Member of Paliament for Tupapa, George Maggie and the Member of Parliament of Puaikura, Nooroa Baker who cleared the debris, and the remainder of the surrounding trees from the neighbouring section.

Paul (head of the family living in the house) and his brother, who is an experienced builder, were willing to do all the labour to fix the damaged roof, however needed assistance with the purchase of some materials.

Other members of the community generously assisted with electrical, plumbing and other contractual labour.

The grant was approved, roofing materials were purchased and construction underway to repair the verandah of the young family's home.