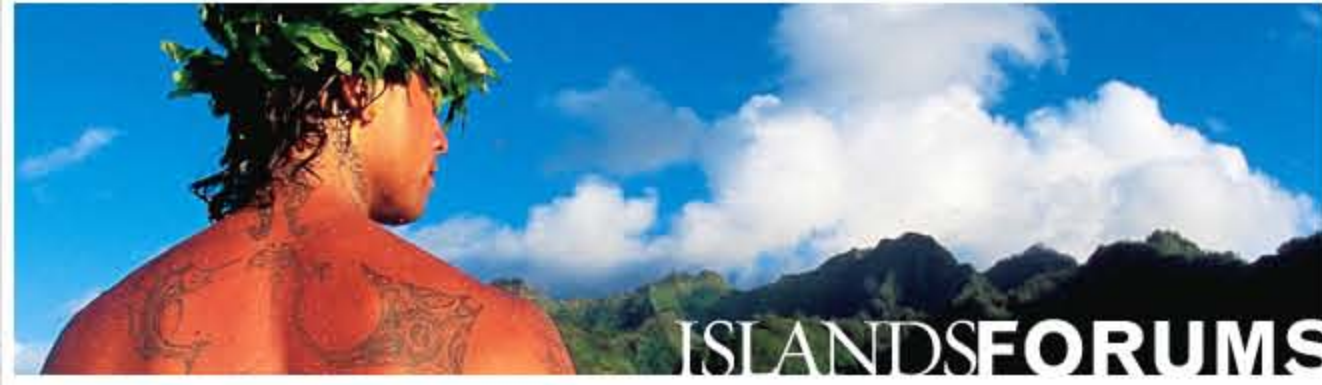


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Pencils for Kids in Bali

By ISL_Adrienne at 2008-08-21 15:37 [Blue List](#) | [Exotic Islands](#)

It's always good to hear about good things happening on islands, and this morning we found out about good things happening on one of our favorite islands, Bali. A U.S. based non-profit Pencils for Kids visited the Indonesian island recently and delivered school supplies to village children. The event (and information about how you can get involved in the charity) is summed up in the press release below.

Adrienne
Islands

Pencils for Kids Delivers School Supplies to Children in Eight Bali Schools

LOS ANGELES, CA – AUGUST 20, 2008 – Pencils for Kids, Inc., a nonprofit corporation based in Los Angeles, Calif., has completed its inaugural mission this summer to provide critically needed school supplies to children in Bali and is planning for its first-ever fund-raising event and new missions to Thailand and Bali in 2009.

In July, Pencils for Kids representatives delivered 414 backpacks filled with essential supplies to children ages four to 12 years old at eight rural schools in Bali. The children received backpacks filled with notebooks, pencils, crayons, erasers, coloring paper, a school uniform voucher, pencils, toothbrushes and more.

For many of these children, receiving such items means they can now attend school – something many of their families couldn't afford. In Bali, children begin school at age seven in 1st Grade. Their parents are required to purchase uniforms and all school supplies, as nothing is provided by the government. A school uniform alone costs about \$10 in U.S. dollars, about 25% of the average rural Balinese family's monthly income.

Pencils for Kids Founder Loretta Jitner led the inaugural mission, whose sponsors included the Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa in Bali, AsiaLuxe Holidays and Qantas Airlines. Assisting the mission was The Bali Children's Project.

On day one, the first stop was a primary school in the rural village of Penestanan. The caravan was greeted by children chasing the cars and cheering. "We heard from the parents that the children were so excited about receiving their backpacks they couldn't sleep the night before," says Jitner. "To be honest, neither could I, so I understood their excitement."

Also receiving backpacks that day and the next were children at schools in Katik Lantang; Tangkup Ayar, Sidemen; Wanagiri; and Munduk.

In Tangkup Ayar in East Bali, one of the poorest areas of the island, the team discovered the children they were visiting had never seen a Westerner, heard English spoken, received a present or seen a photo of themselves. They also had never worn backpacks, but once they had them on, they refused to take them off. "It was a touching reminder of the magnitude of our small gesture to these children," says Jitner, "and a day they, and we, won't forget anytime soon."

Jitner founded Pencils for Kids in 2007 with a mission of helping children in need in developing countries to attend school and build better futures. It is preparing for its next field trip to Northern Thailand in April 2009, with EVA Airways as its exclusive airline sponsor, and a return trip to Bali in July 2009, with Qantas Airways repeating as the exclusive airline sponsor.

Extra Space Storage has joined Pencils for Kids as its newest corporate sponsor, and exclusive self-storage sponsor. It will aid the nonprofit in preparations for its overseas trips. Please visit their website to learn how they can assist with for your self-storage needs at www.extraspace.com.

To raise funds for its missions, Pencils for Kids will hold its first annual benefit golf tournament on February 23, 2009, at El Caballero Country Club in Tarzana, which features an 18-hole course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr.

Events include a silent auction and a sweepstakes drawing with exciting travel prizes. Tee sponsorships and "Hole-in-One" sponsorships are now available, along with space for up to 144 players.

Pencils for Kids is a non-profit corporation, with 501c3 tax-exempt status pending. To support its mission and learn more about upcoming events, visit www.pencilsforkidsinc.com.

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