

Media Release
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Lawyer steps out of office and into Africa

One of Cairns' prominent Planning & Environment lawyers, who advises clients in the property development and planning arena in Far North Queensland, will soon step out of the office and begin an adventure which takes 'making a difference' to a whole new level.

For Edith Frankling, an Associate with mid-tier firm MacDonnells Law, the coming months will not involve a corporate office, contracts or court appearances. In three weeks she will undertake a two-month volunteer position with a Christian organisation called Watoto in Uganda, Africa, to help orphaned and vulnerable children.

These children are cared for in children's villages in Uganda established by Watoto Child Care Ministries after they have been abandoned by their families due to the devastating consequences of HIV AIDS.

Watoto has an holistic approach to rescuing these children. The children are placed in homes with a loving mother and other abandoned siblings and the care provided goes beyond meeting the physical needs but extends to the moral, educational, spiritual and psychosocial needs. The core vision is to raise these children to be future leaders of Uganda so that they, in turn, will rebuild their nation.

When asked what prompted her to spend time in Uganda with this project, Edith said, "I have a heart for children and want to see children experience the love that I experienced growing up as a kid in Australia. I have been so blessed and believe it is important to share those blessings with others. I am also excited about having this opportunity to live in a country and experience a culture that is so removed from Australia and to be able to serve in a practical way. It also helps that I am addicted to travel."

Edith is no stranger to volunteer and international aid work, funding the construction of a water well when she was travelling around Cambodia in 2007. This well supports a few families in a rural village in Cambodia providing fresh drinking water.

"I also recently participated in a missions trip to Thailand in February with the Baptist Church where we ministered to children through English camps and Sunday schools. We volunteered with an organisation called "Destiny Rescue" which helps young girls who have been sold (often by their parents) into prostitution. We built sanitary infrastructure (ie toilets), fish ponds and generally helped out where we could in the local villages and the orphanages. That trip really opened my eyes to the needs of communities in developing countries."

"These experiences bring a balanced perspective into my life which, in turn, brings a fresh reality to the work that I do as a lawyer every day. It is a blessing to serve others and see that often the simplest gesture, might mean the world to someone else and can make a direct difference in that person's life," said Edith.

Edith also sponsors a child through Watoto and is excited about meeting her while in Uganda. After spending time in Uganda, Edith will be travelling and is expected to return to Cairns in twelve months' time.

For more information about the Watoto project, please go to www.watoto.com

For further information:

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