

Raising the famine stakes

As they have done for more than 14 years, lawyers and judges will again support World Vision's annual 40-Hour Famine, being held on the weekend of 22-24 May, with their own particular campaign.

With the theme "raise the stakes", New Zealand's law professionals are being challenged to do even better this year than they have for the past 14 years in their *Lawyers for the Famine* campaign.

Co-founded by Judge Lisa Tremewan along with Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft, *Lawyers for the Famine* attracts participants and sponsors from the wider legal community. Money raised is used for aid and development projects to assist those living in desperate poverty.

Judge Tremewan has visited a number of the projects that famine funds support and is pleased with what has been achieved to date. However, she notes that the need this year is even greater as the global economic crisis is leaving millions of children in the developing world struggling to survive.

This year's campaign will particularly support work being done in Rwanda's

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Nyarugunga community to provide better access to health care.

Judge Tremewan visited that community, near Kigali, in late 2007 and was very impressed by the New Zealand-funded work being done there. However, she was also struck by the great level of need – where people who are seriously ill and often malnourished have to trek long distances to get medical attention.

Money that the profession raises this year will help World Vision build a new health centre, in partnership with the



Judge Tremewan with children in Rwanda's Nyarugunga community. Money raised in this year's *Lawyers for the Famine* campaign will help build a health centre for the community.

community, to serve 36,000 people living in the area, including 7,000 children.

Those who wish to undergo the famine or sponsor people taking part, should contact Jo Ferguson, tel (09) 916 5266 or Treasa Dunworth (Auckland law school), tel (09) 373 7999.

Donations, which are tax deductible and will be received, can be sent directly to Jo

Ferguson, Judges PA, Waitakere District Council, PO Box 21-164, Henderson, Waitakere City. Cheques should be made payable to World Vision (NZ). ■