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SP helps boy needing kidney

If there is ever a time in need, the time is now. Young Ryan Richards has been diagnosed with a deadly kidney disease and is pleading with the general public for some assistance in aiding him finan-

cially to pay for his operation. Doctors, friends and family are working tirelessly in collaborative efforts to reach the potential goal of raising the money. An estimated amount of \$30,000US is considered necessary for the surgery.

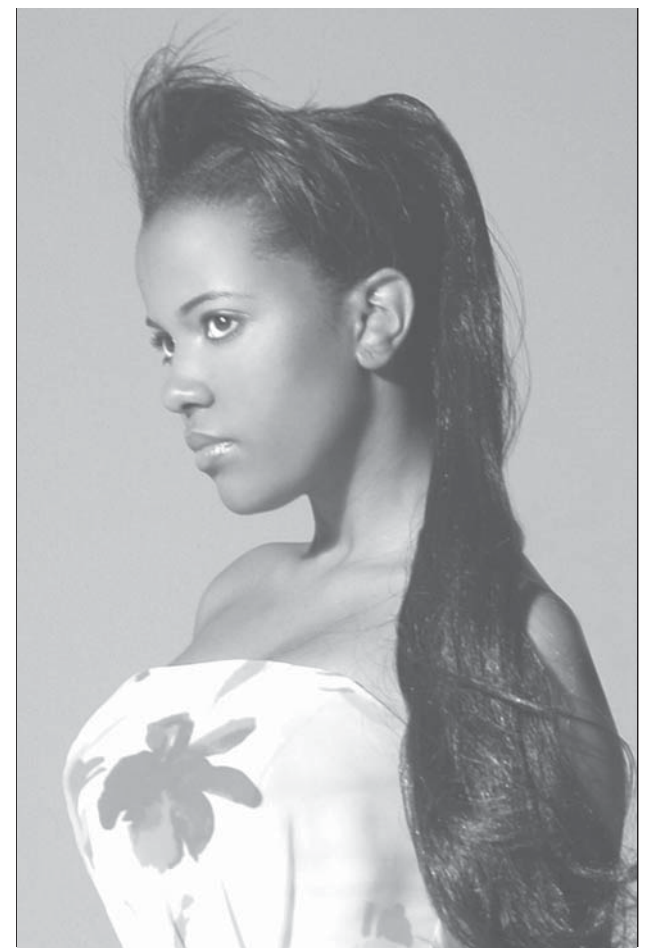


Reef Radio personalities Nasa (left) and Eiden Salazar (right) encourages listeners to donate money and help 20-year-old Ryan Richards (pictured with his mother, Therese Clothier) on Saturday. The radio-thon helped raise approximately \$9,000 BZ towards the \$30,000 US goal.

Past records show that children who have died from this illness are either deprived of the finances necessary for the required medical attention or simply because of neglect. The "Friends of Pediatrics" is a non-governmental organization that provides tertiary healthcare to underprivileged children and is doing everything in their power to assist young Ryan Richards through his dilemma. Because kidney impairment is life threat-

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Miss Belize 2005 writes to Belize



Andrea Elrington, 22, is representing Belize in the 2005 Miss Universe pageant to be held in Bangkok, Thailand. The Miss Universe event brings together beautiful women, important personalities, artists,

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No settlement over new taxes

On Friday, February 11th, the Government of Belize (GOB) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) signed an 11-point agreement committing to work together to review the budget proposed by GOB. In the agreement, TUC set out to do two main things; the first being to review the recurrent expenditure

of the budget with the objective of reducing expenses and the second was to review the National Trade Union and Congress of Belize's proposals, submitted to GOB on January 31st, 2005.

The specific objective of the review was to deter-

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Farmers leaving Belize

On Thursday, February 17th, 2005, the Agro-Productive Sector, with the assistance of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), launched an extensive campaign to bring attention to the increased tax measures implemented by the Government of Belize and how it is affecting the agro-productive

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Land sale angers SPTC



Being in the center of Belize's tourism industry, property in San Pedro Town seems to be a wise business transaction for potential investors. Real estate acquisitions of private properties are usually an easy process, however, the sale of government land is not quite so simple. Recently, against the San Pedro Town Council (SPTC) consent, two parcels of government property on Ambergris Caye recently

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Dr. Egbert Grinage checks the pulse of a young boy who's mother brought him to the "Friends of Pediatrics" free clinic on Saturday. In addition to offering free checkups to local children, the "Friends of Pediatrics" is raising money for Ryan Richards who needs a kidney transplant.

Friends of Pediatrics helping boy needing kidney transplant

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ening, disorders and diseases that may affect the kidney deserve prompt attention. Kidney diseases often show no symptoms until late in its course and can lead to end-stage kidney failure, which is fatal unless a dialysis machine is used or a kidney transplant is performed. Therefore, early help is vital during this process; Ryan is expected to receive 16-dialysis treatments before his operation. Accordingly, for every dialysis process he will need a whopping \$485US, adding up to a total of \$7,760US.

In an effort to raise funds, the family and everyone involved are hosting fund raising events and other activities to reach the estimated amount. Reef Radio hosted a radio-thon that raised approximately \$9,000BZ. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this cause is urged to kindly do so; cheques can be made out to "Friends of Pediatrics," and mailed to the following address; "Friends of Pediatrics," P.O.Box 1443, Belize City, Belize. Please help save a precious life.

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Tel: (+501) 226-2388
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