

CREW FOR A CAUSE SMILE — AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE



The Smile Clothing founders with a few recipients of their clothing donation program.

Courtesy of Smile Clothing

With a name like “Smile Clothing,” you just know that whatever the company is doing must bring a smile to your face. You would be correct. Smile Clothing began operations — informally — in 2009/2010 when a group of surfers in Indonesia, including Deckhand Daniel Chafer of M/Y *Polar Star*, Soren Molineux, Shaun Denaro, Dylan Street and former crewmember Bede Carmine, were looking to give back to the local communities that had been so helpful during their travels. But they wanted to do something with tangible, immediate benefits.

“We knew firsthand the difference clothing, especially school clothing, could make to kids in regional areas with high poverty and many orphanages. Smile Clothing was born from this,” says Chafer.

The company works on a one-to-one model — it sells clothing online; for every item sold, Smile donates a t-shirt or school uniform to a child in need to enable them to attend school.

The first year, 2010, started well as the team dropped clothing throughout Indonesia, giving away 300 shirts to orphanages and schools in poor socioeconomic regions throughout Bali and Lombok. The following year, Smile donated 2,000 school uniforms and t-shirts to children throughout Indonesia, Cambodia, Kenya and Sri Lanka. And it keeps getting better — 2012 was the best year yet with 5,000 items of clothing donated.

“The children’s clothing [is] produced locally where possible,” Chafer says. “School uniform specifications can then easily be followed. Where not possible, or unknown, the Smile team has garments for children produced in Indonesia and we hand deliver them to [the] communities we work with.”

Smile Clothing aims to grow its network of drop zones to include remote outback Australia, Morocco and South America, to name a few.

“The most rewarding part of all of this [is] the smiles that these children have on their faces when given such a simple gift,” Chafer says. “Also, knowing that for some of these kids [the clothing is] life changing as they are not able to provide school uniforms for [themselves] — you are allowing children to go to school, to have a dream and to reach their full potential.”

You can help, too — check out Smile Clothing’s offerings at www.smileclothing.co.

Save the Date

Westrec Marina’s 13th Annual Captain and Crew Appreciation Party, honoring the professionalism and dedication of crew, will be held at Sunrise Harbor Marina in Fort Lauderdale, on

April 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. Get your costumes ready — the theme is Night of the Rising Sun. Crew can register via email to rising_sun2013@att.net. www.westrec.com

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