



EdmundRice
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA

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REACHING OUT

PRESENCE | COMPASSION | LIBERATION

www.erf.org.au



Dear Supporters,

Just recently as I stood on the edge of the Kibera slum I was reminded that the smallest form of engagement can sometimes be the most vital. I was waiting for an immersion group to return from a home visit to one of the parents of the Mary Rice Centre when I was approached by a familiar face. I had first met this woman twelve months ago when she was desperate to put food on the table for her family. My memory of that time is still strong today; she was a defeated woman and her children were sick and unable to attend school.

At such times the human instinct is to provide an instant 'fix' to the problem but it is often these instantaneous solutions that often add to an increased need for support in the long run.

Instead we talked and listened to her problems and it became very clear that she wanted to stop relying on the good will of others and find a way for her family to stand on her own two feet. At her urging we introduced her to the Microfinance program and since that moment she has been able to provide for her family via the sale of textiles from her own micro business. Her business was able to be started with a loan of \$25.

This Christmas we ask that you consider providing a donation to the Foundation so that we can continue to help the world's poor to stand on their own two feet. Your donation will be directed toward communities to provide sustainable change. I could think of no better way to begin the Christmas season.

Anthony Ryan
Chief Executive Officer



Pump for Water at Maasin School



March for the Disabled in PNG

PROJECT UPDATES: OCEANIA

Edmund Rice Services

Maasin, Philippines

The Edmund Rice Services in Maasin has been engaged in services which have had their main office base in the Diocesan Social Action Building in Maasin City, since the beginning of 2012.

The services being delivered are as follows: Child Assistance & Livelihood Promotion which targets children at risk of missing out on education through poverty and hunger. This service is also concerned with enabling adult members of the poorest families to better access livelihood support through specific skills-training; Community Based Rehabilitation which promotes primary ear and eye health care through community education as well as ensuring screening programs and early intervention in relation to ear and eye problems; in addition, the CBR team responds in mercy-action to a wide range of critical health conditions of the poorest people in the area; Youth Development which targets spiritual, social, developmental and growth challenges faced by needy youth.

The service aims at strengthening in national high schools and needy private/ Catholic schools, positive, caring Christian communities where staff and students are supportive of one another and take responsibility for the environment as well as those in need. The program aims at strengthening the psychological, moral and social growth of students while strengthening their interconnection and identification with their communities. The staff teams which deliver the above combine for engaging in activity to support development of disadvantaged communities through initiatives of joint-action and advocacy.

Edmund Rice Services

Kabankalan, Philippines

Community Engagement empowers people towards a sustainable, caring community. With a common understanding of their situation and needs, a common vision of what is desired as a community is created. Members of the local community strive towards the financial sustainability of various projects thus improving nutrition and health of children and adults. Ideally, funds are also made available for transport and educational assistance.

The Community Engagement program has been operating in four areas for one year and already the establishment loans have been totally reimbursed. New projects are being explored and community leaders are gaining confidence and management skills. To date, the provision of rice is the main livelihood project. Other options are also being explored especially during the 'dead' months in the sugar season when labourers have little or no income.

The growing of corn, the breeding of goats, and small businesses that can be conducted from local shelters are just some possibilities. In the recent gathering of Community leaders following the review of their projects, new proposals were developed such as rug making, selling of cooked food to labourers, selling of dried fish, and the selling of scrap metal. The whole community will benefit from the proposals that become established. People were excited recently when the new tricycle arrived. The Community Engagement team travels to very poor areas to gather and train the local people. The new tricycle will be a welcome aide.

Callan Services

Papua New Guinea

Callan Services is constantly training workers for the disabled. The following give accounts of some recent sessions. Ear equipment training was conducted at Kiunga in the Western Province. The focus of this training was on ear and hearing equipment used in examining ears and measuring the level of hearing loss for clients with hearing difficulties. Another workshop at Hagen explored the anatomy and physiology of ears, pathology and audiometry. When children are identified as hard of hearing or with deafness they are supported in gaining education with extra support from Special Education Resource Centre staff members. At Vanimo a 3 day child protection foundational training workshop was held.

The participants were given training on the care needs of children - physical, psychological, emotional, cognitive, moral, social & spiritual care. Participants were given training on child maltreatment such as abuse and neglect which in most cases include commercial exploitation of children. The participants brought their experiences in their homes and classrooms which positively affected the workshop. Such training will help many people, especially care givers, parents and teachers to come to understand the needs of children with a disability and help harm from occurring to these children. All staff members within the Network of Callan Services for Persons with disabilities participate in this workshop. This training is not just about reporting abuse. It is about creating an environment for children to grow into positive and caring citizens.



Preparing for Lessons

Comunidade Edmund Rice East Timor

During the past 5 years there has been a sustained scheme to provide teacher training by a volunteer from Hobart, Jen Earle. The focus has been to build capacity in general teaching strategies, including planning lessons, engaging students through the use of activities, and the use of teaching aids. Emphasis was for skills in the disciplines of mathematics, Tetum (the local language), science and the arts. At this time all teachers involved in training were supported financially by CER. Teachers were accountable to CER for punctuality and attendance as well as suitable lesson preparation.

Last year, all bar one CER sponsored teacher were successful in being registered as a government teacher and paid by the government. A recent program endeavoured to observe teachers in action to assess the extent to which teachers were adopting learned teaching and planning methodologies, provide constructive feedback to teachers and hold discussions at each school about their current practices and how these can be improved.

Since CER teachers have become government teachers, the accountability to arrive on time and to teach every day has diminished significantly. There remain four CER-sponsored teachers who are accountable to CER and are expected to teach a full day, every day. These are cultural challenges to be recognised and negotiated. CER will now need to address the challenge of how it assists the primary schools with training & support into the future.

PROJECT UPDATES: AFRICA



Bead Making at Eldoret



Products of Ladies' Enterprise

Education for Life *Eldoret, Kenya*

The care givers workshop brings together parents and guardians of our sponsored children to share experiences and learn skills to support the children. There has been a growing concern on the increase of incidents of child abuse within and outside families. The three day workshop empowered the participants on parental responsibilities, parenting skills and Child rights. The participants challenged each other and role played parenting skills as they shared the best practices.

It was evident from the group discussions that many children are at risk since most of the parents are busy looking for part time jobs or engage in income generating activities and hence spend little time with the children.

Some of the Caregivers engage in negative behaviour which impacts on the children leading to rebellion, poor academic performance among others.

We conducted also a three day workshop for a total of 125 boys and girls in Form 1 to empower them with life skills to cope with life challenges. The students are a high risk group since many of them join secondary school when they are still naïve and may be influenced into negative behaviour. We have adopted the 'Helping Skills' program which through a participatory approach offers an environment of open sharing for the young people. This in turn enhances group support as the students journey together through secondary school. Evaluation through the years has shown positive behaviour among the students.



Sister Sara using ultrasound

STAR Support Group *Yambio, South Sudan*

Star Support Group assists people living with HIV/AIDS and builds capacity of the community to be aware of, care for, support and encourage its members through home based care programs and workshops.

Activities of the project include; organizing awareness workshops on ways to minimize the spread of HIV/AIDS, home based care support, provision of prophylaxis and opportunistic infection treatment, referral of the patients for further treatment at the Comboni hospital at Nzara, organizing the monthly meeting for the members and the orphan children who have lost their parents as a result of HIV/AIDS among other activities. Currently there are 810 women, 315 men and 311 orphan children infected by HIV/AIDS.

A total of 1436 are the beneficiaries of Star Support Group.

The Director has recently obtained Government support for the dispensary and for Star clients to receive the antiretroviral drugs in the Government hospital. Through networking the project has been supported in terms of provision of farm tools, seeds to plant in the garden and all these initiatives is geared towards the reduction of the monetary resource used to buy the food stuffs from the market thus a vision to locally produce the crops from the garden a strategy for nutrition support for the members. There is a plan of opening a tailoring project for the women to help them build their capacity as well as provide for their family.

Comboni Hospital *Nzara, South Sudan*

The hospital has functioned at capacity during the last quarter. Collaboration with the Christian Brothers at Yambio has been going well, through mutual support especially regarding the shortage of drugs. A total of 38 TB cases were diagnosed and put on treatment. All TB patients found HIV positive are referred for ARVs (antiretroviral) assessment and further management. All TB patients benefited from supplementary feeding and free medical treatment for any diseases or opportunistic infection. The number of clients coming to the clinic for care and treatment is 1786 (72 are children), of them 1100 (34 children) are on ARVs. The average daily attendance in the clinic was 65 clients. The laboratory was able to perform 473 tests. In this quarter 900 children below 5 years were admitted in the pediatric ward (a total of 1350 inpatients); the major causes of admission of under 5s were malaria, especially complicated by severe anaemia, pneumonia and dehydration duo to severe diarrhea. 10 children died in the quarter because of severe malaria. The service of emergency blood transfusion has continued functioning well. Building the capacity of locals in health expertise continued. Auxiliary nurses doing 6 months Basic Nursing Course have completed the program and are returning to continue their service in the hospital. Nurses attended a short training organized by WHO about basic midwifery skills. Several staff attended refresher trainings on HIV management, counselling, TB and leprosy.



Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre *Embulbul, Kenya*

Recent developments have included a lunch system to promote greater student responsibility and promotion of community, and an individual work plan system as part of a trial to improve student results. But, as was reported earlier, the school was informed back in March that it was a nominee in the Transform Kenya Awards. The initial nominations were from the local community and this was followed by an auditing process conducted by Deloitte Africa that involved interviews with past and present members of the school community, including parents, students and staff as well as local community leaders. Some twenty thousand nominations were initially received and following the combined public voting and auditing process, three finalists in thirteen categories were selected including Brother Beausang in the education category which had nearly six thousand nominations, the most of any category.

The awards were to "honour those who make a difference" and the ceremony was broadcast live on national TV and featured prominently in other media outlets. Special guests included leading politicians, business and corporate leaders, United Nation officials, a grandson of Nelson Mandela and Mama Sarah Obama, the paternal grandmother of President Obama. Brother Beausang was placed second in the education category, a great achievement and a testimony to the work of the many who have been instrumental in the growth and development of the school in its short history. Congratulations to Principal, Peter Shanahan, and his predecessors.



Child Care at
Ruben Centre

Mary Rice Centre

Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

Extensive work has been carried out to set clear objectives in mathematics for each level of student. For example level 1 have objectives:

1. To solve the simple additions and subtraction
2. To sign alphabet, numbers, names and simple words like animals
3. To recognise shapes and colours.

The centre has been able to access the old Mary Rice Centre site for use as a playground for the children since there is no playground. The ground has undergone some construction like leveling the ground, fencing and putting a temporary toilet. At the moment the children are using the facility once a week and it is just a walking distance from the centre nearly 500 meters from the current location.

The children participate in different games and activities such as soccer, athletics, skipping rope, water relay, and singing games. These games benefit the children in amazing ways. Children with mobility difficulties, through the exercises their muscles are strengthened, they improve balance and coordination. The children also benefit emotionally and mentally since the games help them to engage their minds and, improve their social interactions skills since they learn how to share play items such as balls and skipping ropes. They also improve their communication skills by learning new vocabularies.

Through positive reinforcement like appraisal, cheering, clapping, appreciation, children gain self-confidence and raise their self-esteem. Sports help us to identify different children's abilities as they participate in different games.

Ruben Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

Engagement with the community to identify its needs is an integral part of development. Out of this engagement process for 2014, two community needs emerged and with these came two new programs. One of these is Child Care. Ruben has converted the former clinic buildings into a baby or child care centre.

Mothers can leave children (8 months to 5 years) at the centre while they are working. Many mothers hustle for daily menial jobs and carrying a small child around is difficult. Finding a care centre, which offers quality care, is safe and clean is difficult.

The program complements the other programs in Ruben Centre and in turn benefits from the fact that it is located in such a centre. A sick child is treated in the clinic and mothers who come often make use of the counsellor in the nearby office. Often an older sister who is a school student is able to collect her younger sibling on her way home.

Several other benefits have flowed from the program including underweight children being identified and assisted, and higher standards have really motivated the mothers to lift their game in terms of how they dress their children and what food they send along for them. There are three women who manage the more than forty children who pay, if they can, the equivalent of 50 cents a day to be present.



Edmund Rice Sinon Library

Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School

Arusha, Tanzania

Enrolment period was a busy time as the number of applicants was over 600 and the number of places available is just on 300. In contrast to last year, the cohort available for A-Level is large with over 17 000 failing to be offered a place in a Government school – last year there were 10,000 unfilled places of the 50,000 available. Form 6 results were pleasing with a good spread of passes and very few failures – these students are now required to do three months of military training while waiting for their results and then places at university or college.

In contrast to A-Level, O-Level students are now approaching final examinations; they take place nationally for Form Two (in October) and Form Four (in November). Forms One and Three are assessed internally. The program of refurbishment and development of facilities continues with an update of the main kitchen (prepares meals for about 4000 on a daily basis) and the provision of a dining area about to be completed.

As part of this development, new workshops have been developed from containers sent in previous years. Recently the school, through its welding and woodwork departments, has made new desks and chairs to replace some that were part of the original school over 20 years ago. Forms 3 and 5 students are being given instruction in first aid for Africans through a visit from volunteers from a UK aid organisation.



SPORT ACROSS BORDERS

The inaugural international encounter between Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School (ERSSS) from Tanzania and Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC) in Kenya was celebrated recently. Netball and Volleyball games between the girls and football (AFL) between the boys were played with enthusiasm. This had been a dream of Tom Purcell, who has a passion for both Africa and sport.

When he led an immersion from St Kevin's 12 months before, he set the program in motion. Training took place led by both staff of the schools and visiting Australian volunteers. On the day of completion there was a carnival atmosphere as the school came to supported from the boundary. But first, 600 rocks were removed from the field (paddock).

The play was very vigorous and the tackling ferocious. But the tackler would then reach down and assist the tackled to his feet. The game was most keenly contested and very close. In the dying seconds, BBCEC kicked a goal to win by 1 point. Both teams then formed one interlocked circle, to congratulate each other on the game – humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

At its best, sport offers a safe and nurturing space where rich and poor, men and women, people of all colours and creeds can meet with a common goal; a place where human dignity is more important than winning the game.

Australian Bishops Social Justice statement 2014

FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2014/15

For booking details visit
www.erf.org.au/events

October 18

Terrace Timor Network Annual fundraiser

October 29

*Friends of Africa Golf Day
 – Sandhurst Golf Club, Melbourne*

October 26

*Zimele Walkathon
 – Yarra Bend Park, Melbourne*

October 28

*The 500 Supporters' Group Spring
 Racing Luncheon – MCG*

December 12

*GOA Edmund Rice Race Day
 – Doomben Racecourse, Brisbane*

May 2015

*The 500 Supporters' Group AFL
 Luncheon – MCG*

May 23 2015

*Edmund Rice Dinner Brisbane
 – Royal International Convention
 Centre (Ekka)*

May 29 2015

*Edmund Rice Dinner Sydney
 – Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf*



Abruzzo Club luncheon



Joy of Supporting Good Causes- Rainbow Lunch