

# Reaching Out

*Peace, Health and  
Happiness this Christmas  
to our many Generous  
Supporters*



## CEO's MESSAGE

Recently, I made my first trip to East Timor and I must admit to having a preconceived idea of what I would experience in Dili and the Ermera region in which the Christian Brothers conduct their ministry. To say I was surprised is an understatement. I have had many trips to Africa and the poverty is something that you expect when you visit certain regions but I was not prepared for the poverty and hardship experienced in East Timor. It was heartening to see the extraordinary work being conducted in support of education, health and microfinance projects. On my last day, one of the Timorese teachers asked if he could speak with me. In our brief chat he expressed his gratitude to the people of Australia for their support. His message was simple: education is the key to breaking the Timorese cycle of poverty.

Your support of the Edmund Rice Foundation has not been wasted. Each of the projects supported in 2012 is providing vital support and hope in Africa, Oceania and on our own home soil. On behalf of our Project Leaders, our many volunteers and the people we support, we thank you. Your contributions, prayers and solidarity have made a difference to some of the most impoverished and disempowered people on our planet.

We wish each of you a peaceful and happy Christmas. May the blessings of Christmas be many for you and your families.

Kind regards,

**Anthony Ryan**

Chief Executive Officer



## PROJECT UPDATES – AFRICA

### HISTORIC DAY

EMBULBUL, KENYA

On Tuesday September 4, history was made at Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre when the primary students vacated the original school compound and moved into the new primary classrooms. The day began with all students and staff gathering at the 'old' primary school. Prayers and songs of thanksgiving were conducted and then following Principal, Peter Shanahan, the primary school paraded up Ngong Road singing songs and waving balloons in the school colours. Needless to say, the local population and motorists were very aware of our presence!



New Primary School - BBCEC

Upon reaching the main gates of the school, the Secondary Head Teacher and the Student Council welcomed us to our new home. Once the ribbon was cut by the Principal we entered to enjoy cake and entertainment before being allowed to see our rooms. A tour of the school followed and it was not long before everyone felt at home and enjoying exploring amidst great enthusiasm, and excitement. The new building is called the Waterford Building after Waterford, Ireland, where Edmund Rice began his work. It is very different from the cramped galvanized iron buildings the Beausang primary students have been housed in for the past twelve years. September 7 was an open day for our parents to show them our new home. It was a great celebration for the Brother Beausang community. Carpe diem! - Medrin Ndito (Primary Head Girl)



## RUBEN CENTRE

NAIROBI, KENYA



Ruben Clinic (Photo by Simon Scott)

The Ruben Centre is now operating seven programs for the people of Mukuru Kwa Ruben, one of the largest of Nairobi's 200 slums. A startling statistic is that Nairobi has the biggest proportion of slum dwellers in its population of any major city in the world, with 65% of its people living on 5% of the land. In the first six months of this year over twenty seven thousand people attended Ruben Clinic. The Centre has entered into a partnership with the Child Doctor Program, a Japanese based organisation providing free healthcare to disadvantaged children. 55 children have benefited from free medical treatment at Ruben Clinic for diseases such as malaria and typhoid. 17 of these children are currently attending regular therapy sessions for management of chronic conditions such as Cerebral Palsy. One of the program's current members is five year old Daniel, who has Cerebral Palsy. He attends Occupational Therapy weekly to work on his standing, walking and improve the muscle tone in his limbs. After five months Daniel is now able to sit unaided, feed himself, and stand with support. This partnership is enabling the Ruben Clinic to treat members of the community who could not otherwise afford access to basic healthcare.

## MARY RICE CENTRE

NAIROBI, KENYA



Staff preparing the new classroom – Mary Rice Centre

In 2010 the Mary Rice Centre for children with physical and intellectual disabilities, from the Kibera slum, relocated to the St Charles Lwanga Centre following government compulsory acquisition of land for road construction. Lightning struck twice when in August this year part of the Charles Lwanga property was earmarked for road construction. Fortunately, some reorganisation at the Charles Lwanga Centre has made possible the relocation of the Mary Rice Centre on site with space being made available for classroom, clinic and occupational therapy and arrangements made for the construction of a kitchen for breakfast and lunch preparation.

## EDMUND RICE SINON SECONDARY SCHOOL

ARUSHA, TANZANIA

In August we were delighted to welcome Br Francis Nkwabi, the new and first African Headmaster of ERSSS. Francis was accompanied by Br Daniel Lyimo, also from Arusha. Francis and Daniel visited a number of the Victorian and Tasmanian schools that support the work of the Christian Brothers in East Africa. ERSSS has undergone a transformation over the 20 years that the Christian Brothers have had responsibility for its management. Today, ERSSS offers a comprehensive range of arts, science and business courses. The school is also a registered Vocational Training Centre with courses including computer studies, home economics, music, textiles and woodwork. These programs are enhanced by computer and science laboratories and school library.



Brs Francis & Daniel with Anthony Cicutto – Parade College

## STAR SUPPORT GROUP

YAMBIO, SOUTH SUDAN

In June, Star welcomed Br Denis Reardon as Acting Director and Br Martin Binyenya as Finance Manager. Denis (from Ireland) has worked previously in Yambio. Star continues to support about 1,300 people living with HIV/AIDS. The passing of members of Star, on account of their medical condition, has seen an increase in the number of orphans. Currently, Star is supporting about 300 orphans, a number of whom are also HIV positive.

During 2012, Star community has been enriched by the presence of three volunteers sponsored by Volunteers Service Overseas. One, Padraic McKeon, shares a little of his experience:





Orphans Program – Star Support Group

*I am a native of County Mayo in Ireland. I worked as a primary school teacher for over 40 years, 27 of them as principal. When I retired I thought I had more to contribute, so I applied to VSO and accepted their offer of work in South Sudan. I have found the people to be warm, friendly, and easy to work with. Facilities are very basic, and resources few, but the people have real appreciation for the help they get. My work consists of capacity-building, which entails the training of inspectors, head-teachers, classroom teachers, parent-teacher association members, and staff members of Yambio Education Office and Yambio Education Centre. I also co-ordinate activities between the County Education Office and the State Ministry of Education and Instruction. Although there are periodic frustrations, mainly due to the lack of resources, I have found my work fulfilling and rewarding. Helping a new country to build its educational foundation is a great privilege.*

## PROJECT UPDATES – OCEANIA

### EDMUND RICE SERVICES

KABANKALAN CITY, PHILIPPINES



Construction of new classrooms – Hinoba-an Town

In addition to its Back to School Program and Alternative Learning System for out-of-school youth and services for

people with disabilities, ERS Kabankalan also promotes self-sufficiency in poor rural schools. Over the past fifty years many parish based Catholic High Schools have been established in what is now the Diocese of Kabankalan on Negros Island. Because these buildings are mainly of timber construction a number have reached the point of being unsafe. Application was made to the Foundation for funding and four schools have been assisted during 2012. One of these schools, Our Lady of Sorrows Academy in the parish of Bacuyangan, Hinoba-an Town, has undertaken a project involving the construction of ten classrooms.

### EDMUND RICE SERVICES

MAASIN CITY, PHILIPPINES



Health Screening – ERS Maasin

At ERS Maasin, Community Based Rehabilitation is the new title for what was known formerly as ERS Disability Service. While the service does respond directly to issues of disability, the primary focus is on screening, prevention and early intervention as well as networking to empower local communities, school personnel, and other agencies to enhance their services. Hence, a community-based model of involvement is being used. To the end of September 5,107 children and 677 adults had been screened for sight and hearing issues. During the September Quarter, 36 kindergartens and elementary schools, 3 high schools and 10 communities were screened. Currently, 350 elementary and high school students are being assisted through ERS Back-to-School Service and the Alternative Learning System. A further 83 adults have been involved in Integrated Crop Management Training through the Department of Agriculture Livelihood Training Program for poor families. ERS organised and facilitated the implementation of the training which was conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

### CALLAN SERVICES

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

There are now 18 Callan Services Special Education Resource Centres (SERCs) for people with disabilities across PNG. A major project in 2013 will be the establishment of a 19th SERC in Port Moresby, which will include an eye and ear clinic, space for the delivery of rehabilitation programs and staff facilities. Being situated in the national capital, the new



service will be ideally located to be observed by key decision makers in the Government and the National Departments of Education, Health and Community Development. As with established SERCs, the new Centre will focus on prevention through community education about disabilities, screening for disabilities, community based rehabilitation and inclusive education. Benefits will extend to children and adults with disabilities and their families and capacity buildings for teachers of children with disabilities in mainstream schools and health workers in the general community in their work with persons with disabilities.

## COMUNIDADE EDMUND RICE

EAST TIMOR



HELP Team in action with local workers – CER, East Timor

In April, CER farewelled Br Bill Tynan after 10 years of outstanding leadership and welcomed Brs Peter Coe from Queensland and Frank Hennessy from Victoria, who took up the management of CER. In September they were joined by Br David Standen from NSW. CER continues to receive great support from Australia. September saw the arrival of 14 apprentice aged students and 3 teachers from HELP. (H - Hutchinson, Builders; E - St. Edmunds, Ipswich; L - St. Laurence's, Brisbane and P - St. Patrick's, Shorncliffe). The team undertook two major building projects – an open air multi-purpose building at Gleno Vocational Education Centre and two shelter-sheds at Railaco Kraic Primary School. Also in September, 6 Year 10 girls from Macintyre SHS, Inverell, accompanied by 2 Inverell Rotarians conducted computer courses for adults in the villages that CER supports. 18 Year Ten students and accompanying teachers from St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane, were immersed in activities in the schools at Samelete and Deslou. In October, two trainee teachers and a volunteer from Warwick, Queensland, arrived to work with the teachers and students in the village schools.

## BUILDING A NATIONAL PROFILE

In 2012 the Foundation has made great progress in building its profile nationally through the establishment of Chapters in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Sydney, which has added to the existing long standing support of The 500 Supporters' Group, Zimele and Project Kenya in Victoria and the Terrace Timor



St Patrick's College, Strathfield, Table – Edmund Rice Dinner, Sydney

Network in Brisbane. Chapter memberships are comprised of corporate and community leaders and past students of Christian Brothers' schools, who are passionate about the projects the Foundation supports. The role of the Chapters is to seek opportunities to advocate, profile and fundraise. In future, Chapters will be established in Perth and Adelaide.

In May, 800 people attended the Brisbane Chapter's annual Edmund Rice Dinner at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The Sydney Chapter's Edmund Rice Dinner was held in June, while the Central Queensland Chapter's inaugural Edmund Rice Dinner was held at Rockhampton Leagues Club in November. More than 450 people attended each of The 500 Supporters' Group annual AFL and Spring Racing Lunches in the Olympic Room at the MCG in May and October. Close to 500 people attended the Zimele Dinner in August while around 600 participated in the Zimele Walkathon in October. Other supporters in 2012 have been the annual Xavier Charity Dinner, held at Victoria Park Function Centre (Brisbane) in August and the annual Ubuntu through Health Dinner in November at Royal on The Park (Brisbane), which supported the expansion of the Ruben Clinic (Ubuntu is a Bantu word expressing mutual support).



Zimele Walkathon