



Edmund Rice
FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA
Liberating Lives

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REACHING OUT

PRESENCE | COMPASSION | LIBERATION

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A WINDOW OF HOPE

These innocent children are victims of overpopulation, corruption, exploitation and ethnic rivalry. They live with disease, poverty and war. In developing countries such as South Sudan and Kenya hope is hard to come by.

The pages within tell of some of the programs funded through the Edmund Rice Foundation which offer education and medical services to the most disadvantaged, giving them windows of hope. There are now more such programs in different parts of Africa that we are able to support through your generosity.

OCEANIA



East Timor

Comunidade Edmund Rice

Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER) conducts pre-schools (TEKAs) for children aged 3 – 6 years for 3 hours a day 5 days a week. The pre-schools have been built over a 12 year period close to the villages so that the young children do not have to walk too far to get to school. Across the 5 villages there are 9 of these TEKA rooms operated by CER for 250 children with 24 teachers.

Recently there has been great excitement as both children and teachers have been kitted out in uniforms for the first time. It has been very pleasing for CER that the uniform project has been handled solely by the teachers and parents. CER's only role was to assist some families with part sponsorship.

The pre-schools conduct classes to a strict curriculum designed by the Government's Basic Education Department (BED). The principle objective of the project is to prepare the children for primary school particularly in counting and writing. Of course there are very positive spin offs for the children in socialisation, self-confidence, intellectual & physical development.

Each day a meal of rice, vegetables & supplements is provided for the children.

Inspectors from BED come to the centres to observe teachers adherence to the curriculum. CER training days for the teachers attempts to balance the approach by encouraging them to use creativity & initiative in their teaching along with the prescribed lessons.

The Philippines

Edmund Rice Services Kabankalan

Good news from Edmund Rice Ministries in Kabankalan. While in the south of the Philippines in Mindanao armed conflict has caused great suffering, our community development program is achieving some great results. In the areas of Basic Education, Informal Education, Community Development, Skills Training, and Health Care a whole range of activities has been undertaken. This has involved extensive training of staff and volunteers and extension of the skills learned into 32 communities involving many hundreds of adults and children of the poorest edges of society. Earlier multiple programs have now been merged into the one sustainable Community Development program. Identified Health leaders in each community have been given training, mentoring, monitoring and follow-up to enable them to conduct the Health Education module in their different areas. They are trained to offer individual assistance and support for Health Service assessment, diagnosis, treatments, rehabilitation; then to monitor and follow-up.

Outcomes have seen villagers able to access government services independently for their health needs, and empowered individuals to know and avail of the health services available.

There is better knowledge of the diseases and treatments available to cure them. With increased knowledge there comes confidence in providing intervention on their own. However, good collaboration has developed between the health leaders and Edmund Rice Ministry nurses. There is now raised community awareness towards health promotion and the prevention of diseases, together with the importance of healthy living.

Edmund Rice Services Maasin

Due to the recent development and the proposed partnership with Christian Blind Mission South East Asia, due to start by 2018, ERM Maasin is facing a new challenge in gradually shifting its course from a service delivery of activities which are mostly school based to a developmental way of delivering its ministries which is based on capacity building and social inclusion of all people in the targetted villages. This calls for a revisit of the strategic plan for 2017 and subsequent adjustment of activities in the remaining months to suit the emerging needs of this transition. The focus is to strengthen the capacity building of teachers, health workers and parents along with other stakeholders in those schools and villages which are currently with ERM-Maasin.

Village Health workers and teachers have been trained on proper eye and ear screening. Early detection of eye and ear problems was given emphasis in the community to avoid later complications. Clients will be able to save money from buying expensive medication since chronic eye and ear problems will have been resolved early. The physical rehabilitation for persons with disability has been addressed by training provided to staff and volunteers in doing Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) works. Persons with disabilities who do not have the luxury to avail of physiotherapy are now able to receive quality therapy with the aid of the CBR Physical Therapist. The impact in these villages has been considerable.



AFRICA

South Sudan

Star Support Group, Yambio

News from Star is mixed. While the armed conflict continues with over 3 million people displaced from their homes there are positive advances in Yambio. The extensive garden farmed by the Star members had to be abandoned for over a year because of the fighting. This year work has been resumed. Thankfully, the rains seem to be good and the members are now working in groups in the garden and planting maize and groundnuts for their own consumption, as well as offering some of the fruits of their labour to those who are too ill to farm. However, reports came in that in the areas just beyond the garden, there had been some insecurity, with peoples' homes being looted and burnt.

The tailoring programme continues five days a week, where the members learn the basics of tailoring with the help of their instructor, Johnstone Siro. During May, the graduates of the 2016 class were given one sewing machine between two, to enable them to start up their own small businesses to help them on their journey of being more self-sustainable. In addition to this, through funding from ERF, it was possible to purchase sixteen new sewing machines, which will form the basis of the machines needed to begin classes with the new group in 2018, when the present machines in the class will be given to this year's graduates.

Comboni Hospital, Nzara

The isolation of St Therese Hospital in Nzara brings many problems, and certainly with security. But recently a satellite internet connection for the hospital has been completed through a Belgium company which allows monitoring and control of the solar plant from Australia, and provides an effective management communication with all suppliers, donors and the Comboni Sisters in Italy.

The major project now is to improve the obstetrics provision in the area by incorporating the current Safemotherhood programme of an American charity, CMMB, into the hospital. Although South Sudan has seen a reduction in child mortality rates, the infant mortality rate is still extremely high. One in seven women die due to pregnancy related complications; 55% of deaths in infancy occur during the first 28 days of a child's life. A 15 year-old girl has a higher chance of dying in childbirth than completing school. With a population over 12 million there are only 28 obstetric facilities in the country. Planning for the improved obstetric facilities at Nzara is underway. Power will come from the solar system provided by the Foundation last year and planning will include a proper operating theatre and blood banking facilities. CMMB has agreed to partner with the Edmund Rice Foundation in this project. Fund raising has been supported by Parade College with the students Solidarity Walk, with support from Dr Daniel Doyle, a champion of the Nzara hospital.

Papua New Guinea

Callan Services National Unit (CSNU)

An inclusive society is one where all are accepted and can realise their potential in their communities. Screening is undertaken to ascertain the presence of any disabilities in these communities. Referrals are provided for medications or medical treatment such as cataract operations and the provision of aids to assist with reading and mobility. Children and families are assisted with transition and integration into schooling and access to vocational training and employment.

Sight problems are very common amongst the disabilities that are common in PNG. Callan Services is dedicated to providing answers for poor people to ensure they can lead productive lives and be included in their communities.

The cost of providing optical glasses is made possible for locals by making the glasses locally. A building for this purpose has now been completed in Buka and another has been refurbished in Port Moresby. A new glass cutting machine has been delivered in Buka with another on order for Port Moresby. An order for lens and frames for both sites has been delayed because of the difficulties with foreign exchange in PNG at this time. The necessary training of Callan Optical Services technicians is underway. With 2 new optical technicians being trained and refresher courses for 4 other technicians and national trainers, it is planned that the services for those with sight disabilities will be soon addressed more efficiently and more economically.





Kenya

Education for Life, Eldoret

EFL has been serving people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS in Eldoret for a decade. It promotes self-worth for those suffering and enables them to make informed and responsible choices amidst the many challenges in life. The programmes of Education for Life - economic empowerment and support for orphans and vulnerable children - have continued to impact on the families who otherwise may have been isolated due to the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. The desperate families who come to the programme have found a home where they share experiences in a supportive environment and are encouraged to live positively. The economic empowerment activities have improved the livelihoods of the beneficiaries who are now able to meet the basic needs of their children. The most successful has been the banking which the members have fully owned. The older clients mentor the new ones. The poultry project is owned by the members as it helps to support them to meet their needs in sickness and bereavement. The project is also a source of protein to the members as the eggs are sold cheaply so members can afford. The prolonged dry spell has led to high cost of living in basic food stuffs. EFL has enabled its beneficiaries to become more aware of alternative foods. An Impact Survey recommended that a counsellor be employed to hold weekly group counselling sessions for the beneficiaries.

Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre, Embulbul

The school continues to thrive under the leadership of Peter Shanahan and the professionally developed staff, with an enrolment of 744 (380 Primary and 364 Secondary). The 2016 KCSE results saw three students record Grade A which meant automatic qualification for a public university.

Also celebrated was the school's success in the National Primary Schools Music Festival with four entries making the finals and Class 7 pupil, Bradley Mudama, being placed first in his category (vocal/instrument).

The construction of the trade classroom and installation of a filter for the borehole were important developments this year as was the commencement of the dairy project, all of which have the potential to benefit both the school and also the local community.

A considerable proportion of students are sponsored. Decisions on sponsorship are made after assessment by the Pastoral Care Department during home visits and follow up meetings. Recommendations for sponsorship are then submitted to the school leadership team and the Education Support Committee. The Beausang Tertiary Sponsorship (BTS) program sponsored twenty six former students and five staff members during 2016 for studies at university, college or vocational institutions. Thirty seven former students and staff members have graduated as BTS sponsored students. The BTS committee which is responsible for the allocation of the sponsorships and the management of the program consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Bursar, Head Teacher (Secondary) and Community Engagement Officer.

Tanzania

Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School, Arusha

Last year Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School (ERSSS) made its first attempt in the Young Scientist Tanzania (YST) competition and managed to rank number three nation-wide. Nancy and Grace, both Form 3 students, drew much attention with their invention, *A Simple Vegetable Cutting Machine*. YST is an annual exhibition and competition in Tanzania involving school students across the country in demonstrating their innovative ideas and showcasing their scientific talents.

This year the same scenario happened again in Dar es Salaam in August. Nadia Kabwe and Lameck Benista, Form 6 and 4 respectively, excelled with their project entitled *A Simple Hot Shower Invention for Large Groups*, which is ideal for schools, prisons and refugee camps. Their project heats large amounts of water within a short period of time. The water is heated as cooking is going on. Their project is aimed at saving cost, time and energy.

After demonstrating the effectiveness of the project before the judges, the two students made themselves and the school proud as they secured third position nation-wide in the category of chemistry, physics and mathematics. They were awarded a trophy, medals and certificates.

A grand farewell was extended to Br Clem Barrett who completed his 10 years of service to the students of ERSSS and moved to a new appointment in Zambia. His contributions as Headmaster and then as Registrar were highly appreciated, especially by the students.



Mary Rice
Centre Kenya

AFRICA



Kenya

Ruben Centre, Nairobi

What a sight it was to see a grand convoy of important people descending on Ruben Centre to get first-hand information on the cholera outbreak in Nairobi. It was not as though this was new news, for Ruben Clinic has been trying to deal with Cholera patients for months, but maybe the big people thought the cholera outbreak was just a poor slum dweller issue. Then the Treasurer of the Kenyan government was struck down, giving a real experience of being a poor slum dweller. Cholera is primarily linked to insufficient access to safe water and proper sanitation. Its impact can be even more dramatic in areas such as Mukuru slums without basic infrastructure. High-ranking government officials suddenly went on the offensive. The Treasurer announced that human and financial resources would be made available to control this outbreak. The Minister for Health, silent for weeks on the issue, announced he was on his way to the cholera epicentre at the Ruben Centre clinic.

The Minister said, "Local authorities will repair all broken sewer lines. Water will return to the previously dry water pipes. Let me acknowledge the herculean efforts being made here at Ruben Centre. To Br. Frank and his team the nation owes you much and to recognize your great contribution, I wish to announce that the Ministry will support your clinic with an ambulance and your efforts to establish a maternity unit".

Mary Rice Centre, Nairobi

Occupational Therapy

When Rhoda was received at Mary Rice Centre Kenya in 2015, she was 4 years old and had muscle weakness on one side of the body. We did an assessment on her to identify her challenges and came up with a treatment plan. With sessions of therapy, she has been able to walk independently and has achieved hand function. Her hand was folded and she could not lift her left leg while walking, but after regular use of a splint she has gained the right posture for both her leg and hand, hence she can walk and run around easily.

Pre-vocation Intervention

Nancy is 17 years old. She came to the centre this year. Previously she was in a mainstream school but her learning disability and a hearing impairment, saw her academic performance well below average and she could not cope with normal curriculum. However, after assessment at the Centre, we thought it was best to place her in pre-vocation program because she was past the age of primary school. Despite her challenges, Nancy with training has managed to be the best student in vocational class. She makes beautiful necklaces and beaded bags, she has also gained a lot of confidence and she is able to try different designs in class with colours and materials. We are very encouraged and look forward to training her in dressmaking.



EDMUND RICE

CAMP

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

On behalf of those spoken about in the earlier pages we express thanks for the very generous response that came following the last edition of Reaching Out. To the many that sent support, please accept our heartfelt gratitude. The individual donors, schools and events are the 3 pillars upon which the aid given depends. **Our gratitude goes to all.**

EDMUND RICE CAMP - NSW

A recent highlight was the highly successful week long residential camp program held for children of all ages during the school holidays. We were able to support 27 at risk children, with 30 young volunteers who gave a week of their time to provide support and fun for the participants. A highlight during the week for the children was an offsite visit to a roller skating rink located at Emu Plains. This was a fun and recreational day for the children, but it also offered a low cost option for their families for future outings. A first time volunteer leader wrote – I want to come back because it was such an awesome experience. The camp was run amazingly well; the training was informative yet fun; the activities provided great entertainment for both the kids and the volunteers; and I loved seeing how happy the kids were over the week.

PRAWNS ON THE LAWN

The Prawns on the Lawn event in Brisbane in May was very well supported. While enjoying good company and delicious prawns they enabled the funding of many projects to be assured. Our thanks are extended to the patrons and organisers of this happy event.

ZIMELE DINNER

The 6th Zimele Dinner at St Kevin's was another great success, enabling the Education for Life program in Eldoret in Kenya and the STAR Support program in South Sudan to continue. The dedicated committee led by Jacqueline Dinan presented an enjoyable occasion where the experience of being with the disadvantaged in Africa was felt.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2017

October 8

Villa Verde Garden Party - Melbourne

October 31

The 500 Supporters' Group Spring Racing Luncheon – MCG

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



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