



EdmundRice
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA

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REACHING **OUT**

PRESENCE | COMPASSION | LIBERATION

www.erf.org.au



THE FORGOTTEN ONES

These 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.

It is through education, basic health services, training in community development and occupational skills that the situation can be changed. This is happening, but it requires our help for this to be sustained and increased.



Library East Timor



Calasa house, Philippines

East Timor *Comunidade Edmund Rice*

Part of the important work of Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER) has been in education across the villages in the mountains of Railaco in Timor Leste. Assisted by partners from the villages and from Australia, some 10 buildings have been completed by CER over the years. The recently constructed Library at the Edmund Rice Primary School in the village of Deleso is the culmination of 10 years of constant consultation with the community, and its desire for the best for its children.

Back in 2006 Br Bill Tynan along with volunteer labour from the community and funding from Australia built a set of 4 classrooms. While working as an Australian volunteer in the school, Katrina Carey and the children created a book of children's stories. Sales of the book over time provided accumulated funds as a basis for the 'dream' that a Library be added to the school.

Last year construction of the library began with local labour under the supervision of Br. Peter Coe. A group from EREA schools in Brisbane came to the village to work with the locals to pitch the roof, refurbish classrooms and install safety rails and a set of stairs.

The finishing touches of rendering, painting, floor tiling, furniture building and book purchasing were completed in preparation for the school year. Now the dream is complete and another step for literacy in this newly emerging nation has been taken.

The Philippines

A very different government has been elected. This results from concern over the extensive use of illegal drugs across the country. This is an added agenda to the widespread poverty and its causes such as Corruption, Lack of Job Opportunities, Rapid Population Growth, Poor Quality of Education, Low Wage Rates, Illiteracy and Poor Welfare System for the people.

Edmund Rice Services Kabankalan

The Community Development Project is doing very well. By the end of 2016 there were 31 CDP communities. A total of 16 communities have fully repaid their start-up project loans. Community Leaders have become skilled in group and livelihood project management through targeted formation. They have grown in confidence in running their own affairs. Empowerment of communities has led them to support other communities in need; as in providing shelter or financial assistance in times of extreme need. Older communities have begun emergency funds. Newer communities have committed to do likewise when their loans are repaid. Community Health Leaders have been established in each CDP community in collaboration with our nurses, leading to improved awareness of available free government health services, and a reduction of dependency on the Edmund Rice Centre.

Some supported students have progressed to higher education or vocational courses. Elected leaders manage their own community livelihood projects. Presidents now facilitate their monthly meetings. Health Leaders help to assist the needy in their communities with health issues. Some communities have changed their leaders, and some policy and livelihood items. In some areas parents and to a lesser extent District officials have become involved in ensuring children's right to education.

The communion of communities is becoming a reality, in providing shelter for some homeless from other areas, and giving support in times of extreme financial need.

Br Rod Ellyard

Edmund Rice Services Maasin

Community Development is now extending to more remote areas. There are 19 families of a distant indigenous tribe. They are semi-nomadic. Their source of income is travelling to sell herbal medicines, usually returning home after a week. Most of them can't read or write. The families are squatters in the town with poor sanitation, no electricity or drinking water. They build simple housing in a creek bed and have many children. On our early visits they were very shy and would not talk to us. It was very difficult to gather them and very difficult to get them to speak up and report. Now after some months of formation about their lives, families, analysis of their situation, dignity, human rights, community, empowerment and leadership, they have grown in confidence. This formation has helped develop their self-confidence to share their ideas. They now participate more during formation sessions. Sometimes nurses come with us to check their blood pressure, screen their eyes and ears and check their general health status. Our teachers have also started their basic numeracy and literacy classes each Saturday. After 4 months, we see that the people are now empowered, standing on their own in linking with the government agencies. We learned of an incident where a project intended for them was transferred to another area. Their Chieftain complained strongly. They are not easily deceived anymore because they are now more knowledgeable.



AFRICA

South Sudan

Civil war has caused a human catastrophe as hundreds of thousands flee their villages, left starving with their crops and herds destroyed. Thousands have fled across the border into Uganda. The UN has been unable to halt this conflict.

The conflict, a failing economy and extreme weather have collided in South Sudan, creating a humanitarian catastrophe, especially for children. They need our help.

Star Support Group, Yambio

For the last couple of months, the security situation in South Sudan was terrifying and threatening. Many people were displaced and quite a number raped, thus increasing the spread of HIV/AIDS. A total of 550 clients benefited from nutrition support and this made a positive impact on the community. The project has 358 orphan children, the demise of whose parents has been as a result of HIV/AIDS. The project was privileged to have a UN Human Rights staff member help the guardians of the orphans to learn more about the rights of the children. This created a positive impact in that the wider community became more aware on the children's rights. The children also became aware of their rights, so now they can create a positive relationship with their guardians.

Star is essentially a community based project assisting people living with HIV/AIDS to assist each other. Awareness workshops are a key part of the work. This was recently increased through radio talk shows to reach out to many beneficiaries, but this has been interrupted due to the insecurity and most of the radio stations are not operating.

The great majority the 2,000 beneficiaries of the project are women and the majority in the tailoring vocational training are women. So the project is really committed to promote gender equality/female empowerment.

Comboni Hospital, Nzara

The last year has been affected by insecurity including times of fighting around Nzara. This situation has caused an increase of severe disease in the most vulnerable population groups, especially children under 5. The utilization of hospital services has increased by up to 40% during the most critical 5 months when other Health Services in Nzara and Yambio Counties were not functioning. Thanks to the cooperation of partners and the commitment of all the staff, the period went on well and the Hospital managed to carry out most of the planned outputs and to face the emergency. Planned activities of renovation and development of diagnostic facilities (X ray) were reduced and are now planned for the next project. The solar power system continues to work well enabling essential systems to operate.

One of the most successful activities is training for Registered Nurse/Midwife in Wau: at the moment there are 7 under training, giving the hospital within 3 years' time an adequate number of diploma nurses that will be able to take responsibility in most of the hospital departments. Two of the ERFA funded, Wau trained nurses, have returned to Nzara, after 3 years training fully competent and of great assistance to the hospital. Despite famine and insecurity St Therese Hospital Nzara remains a sign of hope and a place of refuge for the community.

Papua New Guinea

Callan Services National Unit (CSNU)

The 19 Callan Inclusive Education Resource Centres (IERC) provide support for the vast majority of young people with disabilities in PNG.

Callan Services National Unit is the only NGO in this network and it acts as the lead and coordinating institution, trains Resource Centre staff members in community based rehabilitation, carries out monitoring and evaluation of services, advocates on behalf of the services and takes a lead as needed in developing new frameworks for improvement of health services and education for children with particular disabilities.

The Network of Callan Services National Conference 2016 provided the first opportunity for Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of The Callan Services Network Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020. It proved both challenging and educational for each IERC Leader and CSNU leaders and staff members present.

It was highly successful as a process of managing change within this Network and bringing focus on the Strategic Plan because it:

- Demonstrated to all members of The Network that Monitoring and Evaluation was taking place and it was going to deepen in the coming years
- Showed that implementation of the Plan was uneven across the Network members
- Illustrated that the financial resources were not always an indicator of how well Plans, Outputs and Outcomes were achieved, and
- Clearly showed that a high level of personal and team commitment, professional attitudes/competencies and innovative and creative strategies were the greatest gifts needed to achieve the outcomes for the disabled of PNG.



Star Orphans Program

Eldoret, Kenya

Education for Life

With the closure of several agencies, the pressure on EFL in supporting those living with HIV/Aids has increased. Funding from Edmund Rice Foundation Australia was used to implement varied activities. One was the food supplement for the 400 HIV&AIDS infected/affected households, the majority of whom are widows and old grand-mothers taking care of more than 600 orphaned children. Also 30 malnourished and HIV positive children benefitted from the milk programme which has improved their health in that they lead a normal life and attend school. The other activity was the school support for the orphans and vulnerable children whereby 72 in primary school, 60 in secondary and 8 in tertiary were enabled to attend school.

Training in chicken rearing has encouraged many to begin rearing their own chickens for income. This made the members participate more in decision making as they planned how to rear and sustain the chickens. The sale of eggs will boost the welfare kitty. We also collaborated with the Ministry of Culture that supported the EFL choir to participate during the cultural festivals. The choir won in the County and National festivals. This boosted the self-esteem of the choir members who despite being vulnerable were able to compete and win many trophies. The other impact was on the diversity of the songs chosen from different ethnic communities as a sign of solidarity and unity.



Opening assembly at Br Beausang

Embulbul, Kenya

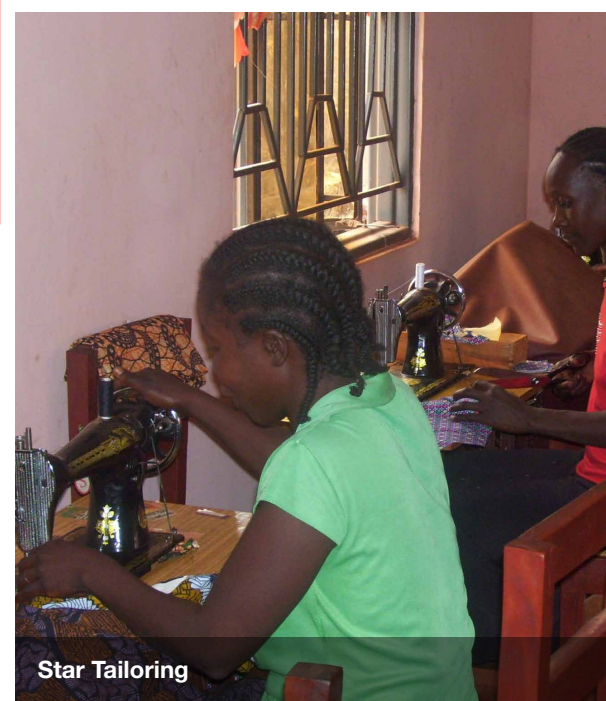
Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre

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.



Star Tailoring



Mary Rice Centre moving

Arusha, Tanzania

*Edmund Rice Sinon
Secondary School*

This school is a great success story of development aid to Africa. Over the past 20 years the Foundation has been assisting in its development. From a run down set of sheds it has gradually developed into a very successful educational institution under the guidance of a series of Christian Brother Headmasters. The enrolment stands at over 1,500.

The sponsorship program has been a long-held tradition at the school. The program supports needy students who otherwise are unable to access education. A number of past needy students who were supported through the sponsorship program have completed their tertiary education and are now able to support themselves and their families. In Tanzania, it is a cultural expectation that one is obligated to financially support the family after achieving personal goals. The success of the students who are currently benefiting from the program is also evident in their improved social and academic progress. The families and the local community have as well been grateful to the school for the ongoing sponsorship program.

The Board and school administration have been working hard to complete the Strategic Plan to cover the five years 2017 – 2021. Significant developments will include addition of a Creative Arts wing and the construction of an additional dormitory so that all boarding students – just over 1,200 of them – will be located on site.



Student Art ERSSS

Nairobi, Kenya

Ruben Centre



The much awaited community Radio station, Ruben FM, has been officially launched. This was a big day for the Ruben Centre family as well as the entire Mukuru community who came out in big numbers to witness the startup of the first radio station in the Mukuru community. The celebrations were graced by the presence a representative of the Governor of Nairobi County, other partners and sponsors.

Josephine is a beneficiary whose children were rescued from child labour and who benefitted from the Ruben Voluntary Savings & Loans program -

My life was a mess and I didn't see how to raise my children. The only thing I thought of was scavenging at the dumpsite where we found food to eat. My children were not going to school and we lived in a shelter by the river that would get flooded to knee length during wet seasons. A community health worker from Ruben Centre found us and referred us there. We were enrolled in the social program. My children were enrolled in Ruben primary school and I was given some casual work from the Centre. Saving some money, I started a grocery kiosk. I enrolled in a short course in vocational training where I learned dressmaking and business skills. Now I own a ladies garments stall and I have been able to expand my business through the loans offered at the Centre. All my children are in school and we are leading decent lives.

Mary Rice Centre

This oasis of hope for children living with disabilities was threatened with extinction last year when tenure on its site expired. Thankfully for so many this crisis has been resolved. The Mary Rice Centre has a new and secure site, which is much larger and safer, and offers scope for further development. The transfer of buildings was accomplished in minimum time and with many helpers contributing, disruption to the program for the children was minimal. Access to the new site is still convenient for residents of the Kibera slum.

A review of the operation has enabled the recruitment process and assessment of children with special needs to be improved. It has led us to identification of the specific support needed to minimise the effects of disability and to prevent a secondary condition.

Placement of children for further schooling has proven to be both difficult and costly but it is important to help children to attain their full potential. Consideration is being given to expanding the program at the Mary Rice Centre so that children can continue there in vocational training. The most successful program at the Centre has been provision of therapy services which has improved and strengthened the muscle tone and both fine motor and gross motor skills of the children in order to facilitate movement. This is linked with provision of meals to improve health status of children.



Bren Arkinstall, CEO of ERFA

WELCOME TO NEW CEO

We welcome Bren Arkinstall, the new CEO of the Foundation, who will be based at the Foundation's Melbourne office. Bren, originally from Brisbane, lives in Melbourne with his wife and 2 young children. Bren replaces Anthony Ryan who gave 5 dynamic years of service to the Foundation. Bren brings to the role extensive experience in the not-for-profit sector in business development and operational management positions. He has worked within the education sector as well as for broader community focussed associations. Bren is steeped in the Edmund Rice charism and was College Captain of St Patrick's Shorncliffe in Brisbane in 1996. We look forward to working with him in the important work of the Foundation.

I am extremely humbled and excited to take up the role as CEO of ERFA.

It has been a busy and encouraging first few weeks in the job, hearing stories of the tremendous and selfless work being done by our program leaders, staff and volunteers around the world. Our work is focussed on enabling people living in poverty to stand on their own feet and ensure that individuals and communities have the resources and skills to create a positive future. The impact of this work and the commitment of our people are truly inspiring.

I take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters for their efforts, either giving of their time or financial support to ensure we are making positive change for those around the world living in poverty. I would also like to thank those that have sent me personal messages of welcome and support. ERFA is lucky to have such a committed army of supporters and I am very much looking forward to working with you all in the future to continue to liberate lives. If you would like to discuss the work of ERFA, please feel free to email me on barkinstall@edmundrice.org

Kind regards, Bren Arkinstall



FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2017

March 19

Zimele Walkathon – Yarra Bend - Melbourne

May 4

The 500 Supporters' Group – AFL Luncheon – MCG

May 5

Prawns on the Lawn – Brisbane

June 2

Mary Rice Luncheon – Sydney

July tbc

Rainbow Luncheon – Brisbane

August 5

Nzara Dinner Dance – Abruzzo Club, Lygon St, Melbourne

August 26

Zimele Dinner – St Kevin's College, Toorak, Melbourne

September 8

Mary Rice Luncheon Melbourne

September tba

Edmund Rice Event Brisbane

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

500 SUPPORTERS GROUP

Since the 500 Supporters' Group inception in 2000 by Noel O'Brien, the AFL Lunch has come to be regarded as one of the best sporting luncheons held in Melbourne. Always held at the MCG and always featuring iconic football identities (past guests of honour include Premiership Coaches Kevin Sheedy, Mick Malthouse, Mark Thompson and Leigh Matthews as well as Premiership Presidents Eddie McGuire, Frank Costa and Jeff Kennett), it is no surprise that the Lunch sells out the MCG Members Dining Room and attracts such high quality sponsors and patrons.

But there is also another reason that the Lunch is so popular: it is an incredibly effective fundraiser for an outstanding cause.

Over the last 4 years alone the Group has raised over \$1.5m taking the total past \$4m over the 16 years since its formation. Because all the administration cost is covered by the founder, every one of those dollars can and does go towards operating the Ruben Centre (www.rubencentre.org), an outstanding Australian-backed and Australian-led not-for-profit organisation situated in the Mukuru slum, 10km from the centre of Nairobi.

The 500 Supporters' Group is led by a dynamic committee and Chairman, Patrick O'Brien. (www.500supportersgroup.org)



Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) is an accredited member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)