



EdmundRice
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA



2014
ANNUAL REPORT
**LIBERATING
LIVES**



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ACFID
MEMBER

The Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity.

To lodge a complaint against our organisation, please email the General Manager and/or CEO on info@erf.org.au. Our complaints handling policy can be found on our website. If you are not satisfied with the response and believe our organisation has breached the ACFID Code of Conduct, you can lodge a complaint with the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee at code@acfid.asn.au. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at www.acfid.asn.au

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I had two conversations during the last year, both with very committed men who I would regard highly because of their integrity and dedication. Unfortunately the conversations occurred at different times and in different countries; unfortunate because when I came to reflect on how well I had contributed to each of the conversations, I realised that the best outcome would have been achieved if instead of speaking with me they had spoken to each other.

One was with a man who has spent decades of his life living and working alongside the poorest of the poor, the most fragile and disenfranchised of humanity, and his contribution has been to be with them in their lives with dignity and respect and to help to liberate them through his presence and the education he gives in farming for self sustainability.

The second was a successful man of the developed world, whose heart had been changed forever by his face to face experience of life in Kibera; a man whose life priorities had shifted so that he wanted personally to make a difference to the lives of those people. This second was a man of resource, of influence and stature, such that his commitment to doing something would have impact.

The conversations were not surprising. The first gently bemoaned the ever increasing paperwork and accountability, the requirements of organisations like ERFA, which now consumed his time and thus diminished his presence with the people. He wasn't complaining, just hankering for earlier times when so much was taken on trust and still great strides were made.

The second, being the consummate and prudent business man, was looking for information about the systems, evidence and accountabilities that would assure him that the contribution, he and his colleagues could make, would be appropriately used and get to the people and their needs.

Of course I had 'wise' words for each of them about the balance between freedom and compliance, between trust and accountability and between justice and charity and they both listened politely and agreed. How much more effective if they'd had the same respectful conversation with each other.

There are many things that ERFA sets out to do and most of them are told in the pages of this annual report, chronicling the impact on groups and projects that we support and walk with in the developing world. However, I think that the most important thing ERFA does, and does very well, is connect people – people like my two interlocutors. ERFA recognises that it is only when we know each other's story, each other's perspective, each other's passions and questions that we can build a bridge that allows real development to happen.

So the ERFA focus is always on development, engaging with the needs that communities and individuals identify and then assisting to transform these circumstances so that lives are freed. And this is a focus for all people with whom ERFA engages – those on both sides of the 'giving' equation.

Throughout 2014 ERFA has made significant advances. Its systems and protocols are world standard, its Board of Directors are prudent and exact in steering the work of the Trusts, its CEO continues to inspire and motivate, as well as ensuring that the proper work of the dedicated staff gets done effectively and efficiently. And these things deserve acknowledgement.

Most significantly though has been the advance of the "Metanoia Matters" campaign that invites all into the 'change of heart' life experience that is as transforming of us in the developed world as the response it engenders for our fellow humans in the developing world. ERFA has made a difference to many lives in 2014, I hope yours was one of them.

Finally as I conclude my time as Chairman of ERFA, I acknowledge the great experience of collaboration and partnership that has supported me in this role. I have every confidence that the new ERFA Chairman, Peter Murphy, will value the same fellowship and encouragement during his leadership. The work of ERFA will remain close to my heart and prayer into the future.

P Dean McGlaughlin cfc OAM
Chairman 2014

INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

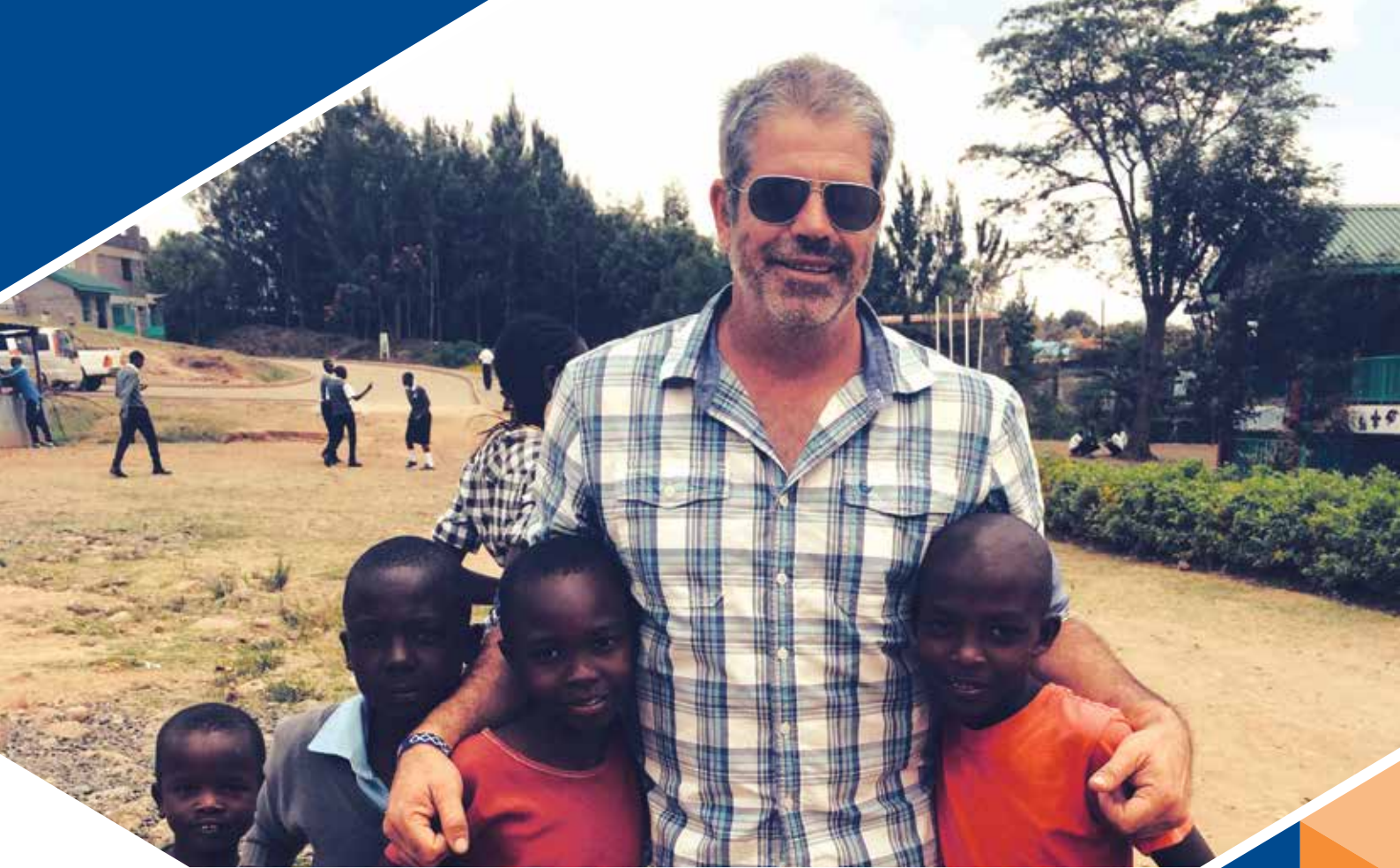
I wish to acknowledge the extraordinary role Brother Dean McGlaughlin played in his time as Chairman of ERFA. The success and current standing of the Foundation is due in no small way to the leadership and guidance, as well as time and effort Dean contributed during the crucial formative years of the Foundation. I feel very fortunate and privileged to be the incoming Chair, although daunted about stepping into Dean's shoes.

The challenge for us as a Foundation, as it is with all similar organisations, is continued relevance and delivery of tangible outcomes that resonate with our supporters. I am certain our recent strategic planning exercise and the focus it has created for the Board and Executive, will set ERFA on a path to continue to grow in stature. The work of Anthony Ryan as CEO is amazing. He delivers, with the support of others, incredible impactful outcomes to the project leaders and beneficiaries of ERFA projects throughout the globe. The benefit derived from gaining ACFID accreditation cannot be overstated and should offer comfort to our supporters that ERFA is growing in acceptance and recognition.

The end of 2014 saw the early stage implementation of key internal projects such as the Metanoia Matters website and a streamlined funding application process that will further enhance the reputation of ERFA. The maturing of each of the state chapters, a critical avenue for engagement with supporters locally, was great to see. We have only taken our first steps on our path to **Liberate the Lives** of those less fortunate in the world. Our challenge is to remain a worthy conduit for participation in projects by those willing and able to assist us, whether through pro bono provision of their expertise or through financial support (all of which is extremely valuable and gratefully received). We as a Board are cognisant of the challenges ahead and remain absolutely committed to ensuring that we deliver an impact to those who ask us for assistance.

Peter Murphy
Incoming Chairman





CEO'S REPORT

At the heart of the Edmund Rice Foundation is the desire to provide Development and support to the most impoverished people in Australia, Oceania and Africa.

Over the past five years the Foundation has grown dramatically. We are a Foundation that has ambitious goals and we aim to grow our influence throughout Australia and the world. In 2014 we became members of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). Becoming a member of ACFID is a significant factor in our continued growth as a true Development agency and we are proud that our Foundation is now viewed by the Australian Government as a leader in the Not For Profit Sector.

In 2014, the Foundation in partnership with our Project Leaders and supporter groups, was able to continue improving the support provided to the education, health and advocacy programs of communities throughout Australia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and West Africa. Of equal importance is the role that the Foundation takes in building global partnerships of solidarity that allow us to 'walk with' the communities we support and in doing so we provide an opportunity for all to be liberated.

The Edmund Rice Foundation believes this is when true transformation via Development takes place. But choosing the Development response is a two edged sword. Development raises the living standards of people and their communities. Is that what we strive for as a Foundation? For the other reality is that our lifestyle, if it were the right of every person on earth, is unsustainable.

Resource assessments clearly prove that if all the peoples of the world were to live as we Australian's live then we would require the resources of five Earths. And we only have our one World! Hence the Development response is based on the principle that 'we change'; not just the lives of the people in developing countries but all of us. Development then requires a new mode of operating for all; we here in Australia need to change as much as we need to facilitate Development opportunities with our partners in Australia and overseas.

In essence, that is what Edmund Rice Foundation Australia espouses – our work is about the transformation and liberation of minds and hearts of all, so that through economic development we can make the only change that is realistic, that we empower, dignify and help to self-actualize everyone within the global community.

Anthony Ryan
CEO Edmund Rice Foundation
(Australia)



EDMUND RICE SERVICES

Maasin City, Philippines

ACTING PROJECT LEADER: Roland Mendoza

Early in 2014, following the disaster of Typhoon Yolanda, Edmund Rice Services staff volunteered with relief efforts where possible. Edmund Rice Services also participated in two major follow up assessment visits in the areas affected to enable a determination of the services required for survivors, including community mental health and trauma relief.

Community Based Rehabilitation is central to the work at Maasin. Eye and Ear screening of children and adults was a major activity in 2014. Refracted errors were identified, and reading spectacles were provided where appropriate whilst others were referred to optometrist. Many children had ear conditions and medicines were provided. Sessions on primary care of eyes and ears were delivered to parents and teachers across the schools of Maasin. A mobile ear clinic continued to conduct screening in the Tacloban area in response to Typhoon Yolanda.

The Child Assistance & Livelihood Promotion program targeted children at risk of missing out on education through poverty and hunger. This service also enabled adult members of the poorest families to better access livelihood support through specific skills-training.

A youth development service worked with a range of staff and students in high schools to strengthen the psychological, moral and social growth of students and their interconnection and identification with their communities.

Other community development activity during the year included Human Rights Awareness sessions for Year 6 pupils and sessions for parents on activities including skills/livelihood training, school and backyard gardening, savings schemes, sourcing of start-up funding for planned small business, assisting each other, and food processing training. Delivery of these meetings required collaboration and networking with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education and Local Government Units.



EDMUND RICE SERVICES

Kabankalan City, Philippines

PROJECT LEADER: Br Rod Ellyard

In 2014 construction of an administration centre and classroom provided the necessary space for the growth of alternative learning programs for Edmund Rice Ministries (ERM). In addition, the Back to School Program run by the project was accessed by 450 children and youth.

The regular monitoring and evaluation of classes enhanced the educational outcomes for students and families and as a result the program was able to maintain steady enrolments until graduation. The associated Nutrition Program continued throughout 2014 with an average of 350 children being provided nutritious lunches in nineteen schools.

The ERM Kabankalan approach to Community Engagement involves a form of micro-finance through interest-free loans and 2014 was the first full year of this program. From a development perspective it was very successful, addressing the needs of very poor communities as identified and articulated by themselves.

Initial targets set by the communities were all met. By the end of 2014 there were eight communities taking part in the program. A strategic planning session was held to set objectives and targets for 2015 with a projection for 16 communities to be involved by November 2015.

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 being explored including growing corn, breeding goats, and establishment of small businesses that can be conducted from local shelters. In a 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.





PROJECT REPORTS OCEANIA

CALLAN SERVICES NATIONAL UNIT

Papua New Guinea **DIRECTOR: Br Kevin Ryan**

The Callan Services network is regarded as one of the most important disability service providers in the country and it has developed an exceptional reputation with both Governments in Papua New Guinea and Australia.

The focus of all Callan Service Activities centres upon the Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). The **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is an international human rights treaty of the United Nations intended to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

In 2014 the following aspects of CRPD have been addressed by the support given from the Edmund Rice Foundation:

1. The education of the general population of Papua New Guinea about the rights of people with a disability
2. The provision of appropriate education, health services and assistive services for people with a disability
3. Ensuring the right of children with disabilities to access appropriate assistive devices and aids suitable for their ongoing support and rehabilitation.

In 2014 the Foundation contributed \$120,000 to the ongoing support of Callan Services in Papua New Guinea. The majority of our funding centred upon the provision of education and training for disability services throughout the country. In particular the Foundation provided the funding for the Annual Conference of the Network of Callan Services; the training of all staff to advocate for the rights of people with disability throughout Papua New Guinea and the purchase of low vision and Braille equipment for the disability programs in Rabaul and Gerehu.

In 2015, the Edmund Rice Foundation will continue to commit to the ongoing support of Callan Services and we hope to be able to attract funding from the Australian Government over the next three years to assist Callan Services in enhancing the vital role they play with the people of Papua New Guinea.





COMUNIDADE EDMUND RICE

East Timor **PROJECT LEADER: Br Frank Hennessy**

The CER Health Team, in partnership with the Timorese Government Health Department, offers constant support of health care across 5 villages in the mountains of Railaco.

The team consists of a nurse, a mid-wife and an ambulance driver. They work in cooperation with the government doctor, nurse and administrator and use the recently renovated clinic (by American Naval Engineers) based in the village of Railaco Leten as their treatment centre. Patients mostly make the long walk from their village to the clinic for consultations.

The Health Department provides regular immunization and corn powder supplies for young babies. Among the illnesses treated are TB, chest infections and infected sores on legs and arms. Regular blood tests are administered and pregnancy checks made. The life expectancy of the Timorese people is in the mid 50's, but is increasing.

CER operates a mobile clinic in a converted Land Cruiser, visiting the villages across the rough terrain, and a donated ambulance for emergency cases going to Dili. In 2014 the team saw 4,667 patients, the mid-wife assisted 59 mothers giving birth and the ambulance made 225 trips to hospital for ill patients and women wishing to have their babies in a hospital. The CER team makes itself available 7 days a week.

PROJECT REPORTS AUSTRALIA



PROJECT REPORTS AUSTRALIA

In 2014 the Edmund Rice Foundation maintained its support of Australian programs and directed \$278,000 toward indigenous, youth and advocacy programs.

The Foundation believes that our support of Australian programs is an important reminder to our supporters that we will provide funding for projects on their needs and merits. In the past the Foundation has been viewed primarily as an International Development agency but in our recent five year strategic plan we have committed to seeking opportunities to support Australian programs aligned with the objects of our Constitution. In 2014 we provided financial support to Edmund Rice Camps, Edmund Rice Community and Refugee Centre and the Indigenous programs at the Edmund Rice Justice Centre.

EDMUND RICE CAMPS

In 2014 the Edmund Rice Foundation directed \$190,000 to the recurrent operational costs of Edmund Rice Camps throughout Australia. This support was directed to all State based programs throughout Australia. Edmund Rice Camps provide camps for children and families who are disadvantaged, supported with a 1:1 ratio by primarily young volunteers in an atmosphere of acceptance, care and fun.

EDMUND RICE COMMUNITY AND REFUGEE CENTRE

In 2014 the Edmund Rice Foundation provided \$28,000 to support the operational costs of the Edmund Rice Community Centre. This support was directed toward improving the lives of, and opportunities for, children and young people of a disadvantaged background by supporting them in their education and providing them with access to free learning support along with a range of social activities throughout the year.

EDMUND RICE JUSTICE CENTRE

In 2014 the Edmund Rice Foundation directed \$60,000 toward the support of the Indigenous Programs at the Edmund Rice centre in Sydney. These programs have a strong commitment to educating and advocating for the rights of Aboriginal Australians, and the development of Reconciliation. The Centre's work is based on dialogue with Aboriginal people, in particular through "Let's Talk" immersion programmes. Groups are taken on week long immersions in Aboriginal communities, where they develop awareness of issues of settlement, conflict, identity, culture, human rights, economic and social issues as they impact the local Aboriginal people. Participants have opportunities to form relationships that provide a platform for open dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.



MARY RICE DAY CARE CENTRE

Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya **PROJECT LEADER: Br Gerald Mgalula**

The Mary Rice Centre (MRC) supports children with physical and intellectual disabilities from the Kibera slum, which is located approximately 5km from central Nairobi. Kibera has been described as one of the most crowded places on earth and estimates of its population vary widely from around 250,000 to as high as 1 million. Life in Kibera is characterised by extreme poverty, few or no basic services and high rates of crime and unemployment.

In 2013, with the support of the Edmund Rice Foundation, a micro-finance scheme was established for the parents and guardians of the children registered and participating in MRC's programs.

As part of the micro-finance scheme, three Mary Rice Centre parents have been training in dressmaking and fashion and design and, after one year of training, they qualified to sit their first Kenya National Exam Council dressmaking exam in December 2014.

These parents, Pamela, Phanice and Mary are continuing training together with seven more parents in the project who are yet to sit their first exams.

During the year, training was also arranged for parents who were interested in beadwork and art. The 3-day training course was attended by twelve parents and two volunteer helpers from the Mary Rice Centre. The parents were trained in making beaded bags, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, table placemats and tag names using different types of beads. They also trained in making door mats and knitting scarfs and shawls.

This training has helped a number of parents to earn extra income particularly as these activities are flexible in where they can be undertaken. The program has also helped parents to achieve personal growth and create more positive attitudes toward profit orientation for the project.

The micro-finance project was very grateful to receive a cash donation from the Middleton Public School in Australia that was utilised to buy 9 sewing machines for the parents' project.





PROJECT REPORTS **AFRICA**

RUBEN CENTRE *Nairobi, Kenya*

PROJECT LEADER: Frank O'Shea

In 2014, the Ruben Centre group of projects continued to offer extraordinary educational, health, advocacy and social development services for the people of the Mukuru slum which has a population of over 600,000 and is considered as one of the poorest urban areas in all of Africa. The Ruben Centre has successfully implemented a model that engages with the local community in order to provide real solutions to the many challenges that arise for those living in the Mukuru slum.

The Centre continued to develop in all areas during the year including in human resources, capital developments, capacity building within administration and program developments. Some of the highlights include:

- 1 The completion of a block of twenty-four primary school classrooms which was opened by the Nairobi Governor. This enabled old classrooms to be converted to a centre kitchen, a clinic (Lea Toto) and art/craft and science rooms.
- 2 The new education initiative called Ruben Improved Scheme of Education (RISE) which continues to produce remarkable results at lower levels of primary school.
- 3 The establishment of the centre kitchen and training of staff which has enabled vocation training and the provision of catering facilities for groups within and outside the centre.
- 4 A new clinic program - the Baby Care Centre - where a daily average of around 45 babies are cared for while

their mothers seek employment. The clinic continued to add more services has begun an ambitious attempt to go paperless. An IT program for patient care and record reporting is being developed.

The Centre continues to be transformed in so many ways and 2015 will see this trend continue. Three (3) new donors from The Netherlands, Ireland and Kenya have become significant partners in sustaining the recurrent operations of the Centre. New policies have been developed in the areas of professional standards for staff and child protection and the existing five year Strategic Plan (2011-2015) was reviewed paving the way for a new Plan to be developed in 2015.

The Edmund Rice Foundation is proud to be associated with the best practice principles of development on offer at Ruben.



STAR SUPPORT GROUP

Yambio, South Sudan

PROJECT LEADER: Br Fredrick Otieno

With assistance from the Edmund Rice Foundation, the STAR support group provides psychosocial care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Over the past twelve months, the project has supported 1,236 people enrolled in STAR of whom 61% are female. There are 110 bed-ridden patients and 165 orphans. STAR Support Group has been actively involved in organising sensitisation workshops to the wider community so that they become aware of preventive measures as well as living positively with the HIV virus. The level of discrimination, stigmatisation and rejection in the community has greatly reduced due to the awareness workshops for the infected and affected people.

Over the past twelve months project successes include supply of antiretroviral drugs, home-based care for bed-ridden patients and monthly awareness workshops. The ongoing sustainability strategy of the project in terms of self-help programs in farming/market gardening is underway and a textile/tailoring training program has commenced with the first 30 participants. Staff capacity building is also continuing and child-protection workshops for orphaned children have been successful.

Another significant achievement this year have been the identification of an auditor to undertake the project's first audit.



COMBONI SISTERS' HOSPITAL

Nzara, South Sudan **PROJECT LEADER: Sr Sara Antonini**

The Nzara Hospital project provides health care for the communities living with HIV/AIDS in Nzara and Yambio, and in particular for children under five years of age. This includes maintaining medical support for the STAR group in Yambio.

The Edmund Rice Foundation supports the clinic's operations in three main areas: treatment of patients with HIV/AIDS; tuberculous treatment and maternal/child health.

In 2014, the enrolment of 489 patients on HIV treatment was possible due to a new CD4 machine and supply of drugs. At the end of 2014 the number of clients attending the clinic was 1,793 including 92 children. Around 1,490 were treated with drugs, 450 were admitted to hospital and 49 died. The laboratory was able to perform 1,516 CD4 tests.

A total number of 194 TB cases were diagnosed and treatment commenced. There were continuous TB/HIV AIDS linkage activities and 177 patients were tested for HIV with 90 of them found positive and referred to the treatment clinic for further management. All TB patients benefited from supplementary feeding.

In child healthcare during 2014 a total number of 33,190 patients benefited from outpatient services. More than half of these children were below 5 years of age. The new ultrasound machine was utilised for better diagnosis and 422 women were treated for gynaecological/obstetric conditions.

Around 3,800 children below 5 years were admitted to the paediatric ward that has a capacity of 60 beds and there were a total of 5,247 inpatients during the year. The major causes of admission for children under 5 were malaria, especially complicated by severe anaemia, pneumonia and dehydration due to severe diarrhoea. A total of 212 patients received blood transfusions (147 children) and among adults the main cause of anaemia was AIDS-related.

In addition to new equipment, the laboratory power system was upgraded and minor maintenance renovation was undertaken in the clinic and paediatric ward.





BR BEAUSANG CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE *Embulbul, Kenya*

PRINCIPAL: Mr Peter Shanahan

2014 will be remembered by many in the Brother Beausang community for the public recognition the school received through the Transform Kenya Awards and the unprecedented success experienced in the co-curricular area. Academically the school did well in the secondary national exams with the best ever individual result achieved by the 2014 Head Boy.

The Transform Kenya Awards placed Brother Beausang as runner up in the Education category from over 6,000 nominations. The Awards have a broad focus in terms of school programs, pastoral care, community and family engagement as well as the school's mission and philosophy.

The school's co-curricular achievements were very impressive and the boys' football team competed in the national championships after being crowned the Nairobi region champions. The girls' netball team won the county championship followed by similar success in athletics, scouts and science competitions.

The school is at capacity with 804 students in total (400 primary and 404 secondary) from all tribes, cultures and religions.

Financial sustainability remains a major focus, particularly in decreasing the level of dependence on the Edmund Rice Foundation. The operational budget for 2014 was approximately A\$560,000. Income Sources were: School fees 25%, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia 47%, Other Donors 28%. The major capital projects for 2014 were the drilling of the borehole and the laying of a hard surface basketball/netball court.

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EDMUND RICE SINON SECONDARY SCHOOL

Arusha, Tanzania **HEADMASTER: Br Simon Kaswahili**

Since its establishment in 1998, the Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School offers affordable, quality co-education for 1,409 local students in the Maasai community of Arusha based on its mission of “Hope through Education”. The school employs 120 teaching and non-teaching staff.

Future requirements for funding for the school are the replacement of 750 student desks and chairs as the 1990s furniture is now worn out. It is planned that materials will be purchased and furniture will be made in the school by students and staff during wood and metal work lessons. The project aims to provide learning opportunities, minimise costs and equip students with knowledge and skills for future employment opportunities.



PROJECT REPORTS **AFRICA**



EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Eldoret, Kenya **PROJECT LEADER:** Angeline Obutu

The Education For Life (EFL) Program has the all-over objective of reducing the stigma attached to HIV and AIDS so the infected and affected can live positively, joining together to stop the spread of the disease which affects so many lives.

The Edmund Rice Foundation's support for the EFL project is mainly centred upon education on the prevention of HIV. In 2014, the Education For Life workshops in Eldoret reached hundreds of young people in 10 schools within 5 districts and 3 tertiary training colleges as well as 60 caregivers, 120 prisoners and 25 gatekeepers.

The EFL program offers psychosocial support for close to 350 poor families living in the slum areas within Eldoret town. It also provides nutritional support, in the form of beans and porridge flour, to the affected families. For almost 80 children who were born with the virus there is a milk program as well as a group support program for older children. To empower families economically, tailoring and bead-making projects have been initiated.

A group savings and lending model called SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Communities) trains and assists 13 groups of 25 members to meet basic family needs and contribute to the education of their children.

During 2014 the EFL Program's biggest success was in providing school fees for 400 orphans and vulnerable children together with uniforms for 150. The Program gives these children equal opportunity to receive a holistic education which benefits them, their vulnerable families and which contributes to the development of the whole society. Two of the children received an A Grade in their secondary school final exams in 2014.



EDMUND RICE KARIBU GROUP

Nairobi, Kenya **PROJECT LEADER: Br Peter Cole**

The Edmund Rice Karibu Group works with marginalised children, especially those who reside in Africa's largest slum, Kibera. The Group runs one-day camps to provide children with a positive, fun, tension-free experience.

The camps aim to make connections with the wider Kibera community so that children are supported more fully - both by teachers and parents. Children participating in the camps have a chance to share their hopes and aspirations, including through drama and art, as well as talking about the problems/dangers faced in their disadvantaged situation. The camps provide an opportunity for games, meals and education.

In 2014, the Group held one day camps each month. In January, there were two 2-day camps, one with the participation of Edmund Rice Amberley and one with Edmund Rice Perth. In addition, there was a joint camp held with the Gone Fishing immersion group from Australia in October. Each camp had at least 560 children and averaged 30-35 leaders.

In terms of engagement, parents in the community have continued to be involved through provision of permission forms and through expressing their appreciation following the camps. Local teachers participated in an organised workshop and evaluated the camps and their outreach reporting that, especially where children had participated in three camps, their ability to connect with new friends, their self-confidence in relating to teachers and presenting themselves before others and their readiness to relate with peers of the opposite gender had noticeably improved.

Leaders of the camps have benefited through the hands on leadership skills required. They have learnt to relate better to children, to develop communication skills, to be aware of protecting children from abuse and to put children's needs before their own.