



REACHING OUT

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www.erf.org.au

CEO'S MESSAGE

Dear supporters,

I think the month of May will go down in history as an important milestone for the growth of the Foundation. Last week, thanks to The 500 Supporters Group, the St Bernard's College Walkathon and the Brisbane Edmund Rice Dinner over \$550,000 was raised to support our projects in East Africa, East Timor and our Australia based projects. This is an extraordinary effort and demonstrates clearly that the development projects being supported by the Foundation have captured the imagination and hearts of the Australian Public.

I would like to draw your attention to the recent Annual General Meeting of the Edmund Rice Foundation. This took place on April 29th via a videoconference link to every state in Australia. If you are interested

in viewing our Annual Report please go directly to our website and click on the communications tab. I truly believe that our Annual Report illustrates the Foundation's new 'catchphrase' that we are helping to *Liberate Lives* throughout the world.

Liberating Lives is such a potent and unique phrase and it is at the core of every sustainable development project that we partner. The very essence of our Foundation should always centre upon education, health and microfinance initiatives that liberate the disempowered and by building this partnership we too are liberated.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Mr Mark Sawle has been voted as a new Director for the Edmund Rice Foundation. Mark is a welcome addition to the Foundation Board. As the current

Headmaster of Aquinas College, Perth, Mark has a strong understanding of the Edmund Rice charism and is extremely well respected throughout all education circles in Australia. In the next two months I will be meeting with Mark regularly to begin a strategy to launch the West Australia Chapter of the Foundation.

Finally, I ask that you continue to support the Edmund Rice Foundation, particularly as we draw toward the end of the financial year. The Foundation relies on your support as we continue to liberate lives through education, health initiatives and being advocates for the poorest people in our world today.

Kind regards,

Anthony Ryan
Chief Executive Officer

PROJECT UPDATES: OCEANIA

Edmund Rice Services

Maasin City, Philippines

In the first quarter of 2013 ERS Back-to-School Service (BTS) assisted 640 of the poorest children and youth, while a further 273 participated in the Alternative Learning Program, which provides an alternative to returning to mainstream school and a qualification enabling entry to further study or vocational training. The BTS is enabling these children to persevere in schooling and has resulted in a significant reduction in absenteeism of those assisted. The need for parents to be able to generate an income in order to alleviate family poverty is an obvious priority. 196 adults participated in the livelihood training program in Integrated Crop Management. A further 188 have

been involved in the making of ropes from coconut fibre. These family based income generating activities provide opportunities to learn livelihood related skills.

To date, in 2013, ERS Community Based Rehabilitation Service has screened 1,720 children for ear and eye issues. 143 eye and 315 ear problems were identified for follow-up. Seven assistive devices were issued and 246 clients commenced medication. Networking remains a priority. In 2012 CBR staff were trained in ear and eye screening by the Cataract Foundation of the Philippines and monitored by them. CBR staff in turn trained 33 Province school nurses and arranged training for a further 8 City school nurses. ERS CBR Service is increasingly becoming a hub for facilitating training and referrals to specialists.



Eye & Ear Screening – ERS CBR Team



Edmund Rice Services

Kabankalan City, Philippines

A Diocesan Child Care Safety, Protection Protocols and Code of Conduct has been formulated and introduced and the Schools' Strategic Plan revised and aligned with other Diocesan Commissions in the Philippines.

Ongoing challenges include teacher in-service, support for principals, formation for school board members and supervision of financial administration. The Schools' Building program involves the replacement of aged timber constructions. As of February 2013 one project had been completed, seven were under way, three were ready to start and six were pending. These building projects are designed and built by the local school authorities and the Diocesan Education Commission is consulted in all project decisions. Funding for the school building program remains a significant challenge.

The physical development of the re-established goat breeding project remains on-going and building and fencing is continuing. The first income from the sale of goats for meat was realized in March 2013. This self-sustaining scheme is being established to supplement the income of the Anawim Foundation for the Deaf. The Drop Everything and Read program has been promoted in the schools since 2009 and funding has enabled the purchase of attractive, new reading materials to enable the scheme to continue.

Callan Services National Unit

Papua New Guinea

In 2012 Foundation support enabled a CSNU staff member to commence a Bachelor of Medical Science in Vision Sciences at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia.

Having a fully qualified PNG optometrist committed to responding to the needs of people in remote areas and to training others, will have a significant impact on future services. Foundation funding also made possible study grants in Special Education for 6 CSNU Special Education Resource Centre (SERC) teachers. The funding of professional development opportunities supports CSNU's Vision to provide opportunities for its personnel to be trained to enable a wider provision of high quality service for people with disabilities throughout PNG.

Foundation support is enabling refurbishment of a building at Gerehu in Port Moresby, to establish a Callan SERC in the capital. It is hoped that the long-term impact of the new Callan SERC will be considerable in terms of service delivery in an area of high population. The new Centre will, in time, also provide services out of the National Capital into the Central Province. In addition, it is hoped that the presence of a Callan SERC in the nation's capital will greatly enhance the profile of the Network in the country and will support the advocacy work of Callan Services with politicians and senior public servants located in Port Moresby.

Comunidade Edmund Rice

East Timor

In partnership with 5 village communities in the remote hill country behind Dili, CER conducts programs in education, health and community development.

The Terrace Timor Network (TTN), a partnership between CER and the community of St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane, supports two self-sufficient projects. An Arts & Craft Co-operative employs 60 women in the design and production of unique hand-made quality Timorese products featuring traditional Timorese weaving (Tais). The TTN also assists Timorese families who grow and harvest a premium organic coffee marketed in Australia as *Just Coffee*. Visit www.justiceproducts.org

About 150 children and 23 teachers are involved in the 8 CER managed pre-schools or TEKA (Indonesian for pre-school). The overall manager is a local Timorese. The curriculum is well designed and in harmony with the recommendations of TaLiHa (put hands together), the peak body for non-government groups involved in pre-school education. The TaLiHa philosophy sees the future of East Timor as being in the hands of these children. Therefore, the training of the teachers is a high priority. Hence, one training day is scheduled per week, which is conducted by instructors certified through Bacau Teachers' College (sponsored by Australian Catholic University).

PROJECT UPDATES: AFRICA

Mary Rice Day Care Centre

Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

The Mary Rice Centre (MRC) for children with intellectual and physical disabilities shares premises and collaborates closely with the St Charles Lwanga Primary School on the edge of the Kibera slum.

In 2013 the Foundation is funding the acquisition and installation of three renovated shipping containers, which will provide 2 classrooms, an occupational therapy room, a kitchen, and an administration area.

In 2012, 14 children with a variety of both intellectual and physical disabilities benefited from MRC's education and therapy programs. 14 sets of parents and families benefited through workshops to become more financially independent and more confident in assisting their children. Each term parents and guardians are invited to participate in the planning and evaluation of the program. Parents are increasingly taking ownership of their children's circumstances with confidence and less fear of stigmatization. Integration into mainstream schooling is a goal and good collaboration with Charles Lwanga has seen the introduction of some integrated class time. The learning outcomes for MRC students are positive, their self-esteem and confidence increased and a high degree of mutual socialization is being achieved. This is an important step in preparing them to move into integrated schools and vocational training. The long term vision of MRC is liberation into life and the program is making good progress through workshops in empowering parents and guardians to identify their children's potential and realize that disability is not inability.



Mary Rice Centre

Ruben Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

Ruben Primary School enrolment has now reached 1,750.

The Vocational Training Centre flexible learning program is enabling adults to acquire income generating skills. More than 40 women participated in these short courses in 2012 while 14 students undertook full year Vocational Training programs. In 2012 Ruben Clinic conducted more than 57,000 consultations with people from the Mukuru slum community. An MOU was signed with Child Doctor Japan, enabling many children to be treated free. Occupational Therapy Services expanded and treated an increasing number of babies and small children with disabilities. Ubuntu Through Health (originating at Griffith University, Queensland) provided financial support for the nutritional program. There are now 340 children and families in the Lea Toto Clinic Program for children who are HIV+ and their families. The Micro Credit Program has expanded and there are now 4 offices in different parts of Nairobi offering loans. Currently, there are over 1000 active loans. The Save Children from Child Labour Program provides income generating activities to support the mothers of the 160 rescued children, who are now able to attend school. The Social Department provides training for orphans and vulnerable children and has 1,010 clients on its books.

In 2012 Ruben Centre finally secured the land that it has been occupying since 1986. A political solution through parliament saw the existing title to the land revoked on the grounds that the public interest is paramount, as enshrined in Kenya's new constitution of 2010. This has provided confidence for Ruben to now move forward with the Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Centre.

www.rubencentre.org



Star Support Group

Yambio, South Sudan

Since the Star Program began 8 years ago the local community has been educated to the point where most people accept those living with HIV/AIDS and fewer people living with the condition are ejected from their homes.

Many Star members are now living more healthy lifestyles and are living longer and enjoying a better quality of life. Members are now more willing to go to hospital early, which enhances treatment outcomes. Community members who are not infected know how to protect themselves from the virus. Carers who look after sufferers in their homes are now better trained and equipped and know how to care for the sick while remaining virus free themselves. Star members report that stigma and discrimination are not as evident as before and more HIV+ people are willing to disclose their status. Star members often give public testimony about HIV/AIDS and take part in awareness workshops where they tell others how to avoid the virus. Local authorities of Church and State have praised Star for its work.



Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre

Embulbul, Kenya

The socio-economic circumstances many families face continue to pose a real challenge so assistance for students and families through funds used in providing educational support is crucial.

The student leadership program is a strong feature in the development of responsible and caring students. Student leaders are involved in workshops and training activities to enable them to develop skills and confidence for post school life in addition to their school responsibilities

Enrolment at the end of 2012 was 750 – 356 Primary and 394 Secondary with a staff of 64. Applications continue to increase and Form 1 (Grade 9) has been increased to 3 streams in 2013. The 2012 KCPE results were above the national average. Further progress is evident in growing student participation in clubs and sports, affirming feedback through the annual staff review and increased retention of staff.

Visit www.bbcec.org

Comboni Sisters' Hospital

Nzara, South Sudan

Nzara Hospital provides general, maternal, child and infant medical care.

It specializes in TB, HIV/AIDS and Leprosy treatment. Major illnesses are malaria, gastrointestinal disorders and complications arising from TB and HIV/AIDS. Nzara has an Antiretroviral Therapies (ART) Clinic and Medical Ward. Foundation support has assisted with the purchase of more effective antimalarial drugs and pediatric formulations of common antibiotics. The availability of laboratory and medical supplies for blood transfusion treatment of severe anemia has been enhanced and new maternal health services have been implemented. The hospital has experienced an increase in the number of inpatient presentations, especially of children under 5 years of age.

4,424 patients were admitted during 2012 and there were 24,600 outpatient presentations. A blood transfusion service has also been established in response to the increased incidence of severe anemia. 187 transfusions were conducted during 2012, including 167 children. The ART clinic registered 485 new HIV+ clients and 187 with AIDS were put on antiretroviral medication. In total, there are about 2,050 HIV+ clients regularly on treatment with about 300 requiring admission during the year. A new pediatric ward with 50 beds was opened in September 2012. Previously, the hospital hall/chapel had been used as a pediatric ward with mattresses on the floor.



EFL Support Group meeting – Eldoret



The EFL Centre Team – Eldoret

Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School

Arusha, Tanzania

Foundation support enables ERSSS to maintain its commitment to the alleviation of poverty and access to education for students, generally from the surrounding Maasai villages, who would otherwise be unable to access a quality secondary education. About 15% of the students at each year level are supported through the Foundation and some private sponsors. A number of past supported students have completed tertiary education and are now able to support their families in accessing secondary education. To date, the student support program has focused primarily on assistance for students in Forms 1 to 4. However, there is an increasing demand for assistance at senior secondary level (Forms 5 & 6).

Visit www.edmundricesinon.com

Education for Life

Eldoret, Kenya

In 2013 the Education for Life (EFL) project, for people living with HIV/AIDS, has experienced an increase in requests for assistance to enable orphans and vulnerable children to return to school. This remains an ongoing challenge on account of the poverty of parents living with HIV/AIDS. In some cases grandparents are taking care of their grandchildren. A particular challenge for the EFL team is the delicate issue of disclosure for children who have been born HIV+ but who have not been made aware of their status due to fear of stigma and discrimination. In some instances associated illnesses have a detrimental effect on school achievement while the underlying cause remains undisclosed.

The considerable challenge for the EFL team is to remain mindful of children's right to information, to overcome fear and ignorance, be compassionate and empower parents and carers to provide disclosures when appropriate. EFL plans to establish a support group for children living with HIV. One particular child and his sibling are both HIV+. Their widowed mother, also positive, was unemployed and struggled to provide for her family by hawking. She is now involved in the EFL bead-making income generating project. Through this contact the children are now on the EFL clinic weekly check-up list and have access to antiretroviral therapy. 2013 has seen an increase in the number of clients involved in EFL's economic empowerment programs.



Rice Camps

Australia

ERC Brisbane (ERCB) held 2 activity days over Easter. 40 kids and 36 volunteers created an Easter Getaway complete with chocolate and eggs. Volunteers made sure that every child left with a huge smile. There is great anticipation for the Winter Camps and work is underway with dedicated and passionate ERCB volunteers planning 3 camps. It has been 14 years since the first ERC NSW was run with St Joseph's Primary School Walgett. In April, 15 students from Walgett and 4 from Gulargambone made the 700km trip to Sydney for a week of fun and laughter, games and activities, friendship and connection with 20 volunteers. The week included a ferry ride, a visit to the city, Ryde pools, songs on the

bus, craft and of course plenty of games.

Over Easter 20 children and 20 leaders participated in an ERC Tasmania 3 day camp for older children at Huonville. Recently, 80 young people aged from 16 to 22 participated in a 3 day Leaders' formation camp on the themes of *consolidation and celebration*. Presentations, reflections and activities were led by EO Andrew Blackett and young Edmund Rice leader and motivator Will Smith. In March and April ERC Victoria hosted Family, African Kids and Indigenous Kids Camps. Six families from Afghanistan, Burma, Iran, Iraq and Sri Lanka participated in the Family Camp. One mother confided that the beach recalled bad memories of her journey to Australia. However, her confidence and that of her children grew

through the enjoyable beachside activities shared with the leaders and other families.

For ERC WA, the reason that volunteers and families keep returning is the unique *Eddie Rice Spirit*. Three Funfests were run in April at Adventure World and Perth Zoo. Mercy & Trinity Colleges have signed up to sponsor a program each, filling ancillary volunteer positions such as cooks and drivers. In late April 6 volunteers travelled as part of the *Eddie on the Road Program* to the mid-west to run very successful recreational programs for kids living in Geraldton, Yalgoo and Meekatharra. Representatives from both shires claimed that opportunities for the kids to be involved in such programs are rare.

Visit www.edmundricecamps.org



Gone Fishing Group with local guides



Kylie Lang – Mary Rice Centre

GONE FISHING PROGRAM

Gone Fishing is an East-African immersion program aimed at connecting decision makers in Corporate Australia with the people of Africa. The program involves a 12 day immersion visiting projects supported by the Foundation. Gone Fishing is aimed at providing a unique opportunity for people to participate in a meaningful and challenging international professional development program, developing their leadership, management and interpersonal skills while presenting the human face of Africa with all its vibrancy and complexity. Gone Fishing is aimed at men and women who have influence over the decision-making structures that will determine the world of tomorrow. Kylie Lang, a participant in the February 2013 program reflected on her experience:

My eyes have been opened, my heart marked forever, by 10 disturbing, exhilarating and exhausting days in East Africa. Along with 9 other Queensland professionals, I upped sticks for Kenya on the Gone Fishing program, an immersion run by the Edmund Rice Foundation, which supports 8 Christian Brothers' development

projects in this impoverished part of the world. We saw three of them, in Nairobi, and didn't they make us think.

The Mary Rice Centre cares for 17 disabled and utterly adorable children from the nearby slum. Kibera slum has up to one million people jammed into a 10km strip of red dirt. Shanties stretch for as far as the eye can see; mud huts no bigger than a small Australian bathroom, house families of up to 12 people. It takes two days to walk from one end to the other, dodging open sewers rancid with faeces, rotting food scraps and other refuse... But it's the kids that win us over, everywhere we go. Happy, courteous and considerate, they're raised to think of others. In Kenya, the community is more important than the individual, and because these children have nothing, they're grateful for anything. An education is prized above all else, because they believe, rightly enough for those who get the grades, that it's their ticket out of poverty. (Brisbane Sunday Mail, March 10, 2013)

For more information about Gone Fishing visit the Foundation's website.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2013

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

August 24

Zimele Dinner

October 12

Terrace Timor Network Annual Fundraiser

October 27

Zimele Walkathon

October 29

The 500 Supporters' Group Spring Racing Luncheon

November (date to be advised)

Ubuntu Through Health Dinner

November 9

Edmund Rice Dinner Rockhampton

November 23

GOA Edmund Rice Foundation Race Day

2014

February 13

Edmund Rice Dinner Melbourne (inaugural event)

AQUINAS COLLEGE

Perth, Western Australia

Aquinas College is a strong supporter of Christian Brothers' projects in developing countries and for disadvantaged peoples in Australia, in particular, the Ruben Centre and Education for Life projects in Kenya, Edmund Rice Services in the Philippines and Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA. The College's annual Edmund Rice Day activities are a major feature of the Aquinas fundraising calendar. Since 2008 an annual immersion has been undertaken in partnership with Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) at Dancalan near Kabankalan in the Philippines. In 2008 the Aquinas group were the first Westerners to live in the village and interact with students. Since that time Aquinas has assisted with the provision of IT equipment, the installation and subscription for Broadband internet and teaching resources. Support now

extended to other schools. A partnership has also been formed with ICA Alumni and P&F, whereby Aquinas undertakes to match every peso raised for capital works. In addition, a plan has been implemented to enlist the support of past ICA students now living overseas. To date, this has enabled three classrooms to be built.

Assistance has also extended to the Anawim Foundation, a home for over fifty hearing impaired children who otherwise would not be able to access an education. Funding has enabled the purchase of goats for a community Goat Breeding Project to sustain the Foundation into the future. Three older hearing impaired young men are employed to manage the farm. Funding has also enabled building refurbishments and the provision of IT equipment and Broadband access.



Painting at Anawim and Working in the fields