

Presence ♥ Compassion ♥ Liberation



Edmund Rice  
FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA  
*Liberating Lives Through Education*

# REACHING OUT



## GET INVOLVED



There are many ways you can be involved and support Edmund Rice Foundation Australia. Please visit: <https://erf.org.au/get-involved> to view our latest events and ways to support.

Use our icons to easily find articles that interest you.



DONOR PASSION



GET INVOLVED



STORIES TO INSPIRE



LIBERATING EDUCATION





# 3,846

pink-laced BFF's

# 254

very generous donors



# 17

dedicated teams



# \$206,522

raised in 24 hours



# 413

women and girls empowered!

# THANK YOU



# BEST FOOT FORWARD 2020

# Success!

The **Best Foot Forward** (BFF) campaign was launched on Mother's Day and despite the challenges thrown at us by COVID, it was extremely successful on many levels. More people are aware of the issues women and girls face around the world and ultimately, more people and communities will be given the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty through education.

BFF had schools, businesses and individual ambassadors donning a pair of pink shoelaces, making a donation on our giving day on Friday 6 November and helping us spread the Best Foot Forward message. Every single person and organisation truly made a difference.

As funds begin to be dispersed throughout to our partner programs, we will keep you up to date with the stories and successes from the women and girls who will be empowered. We hope you are inspired as we will be.

We are getting in early for 2021 and have set the **Best Foot Forward** date as Friday 12 November.

Please save this in your calendar and we'll be sure to share with you some more information as we get into the new year.

To access our educational resources, a list of ambassadors, stories of the girls and women we are walking with, and ways to support, please visit: [www.bestfootforward.org.au](http://www.bestfootforward.org.au)

 [www.instagram.com/bestfootforward.org.au](https://www.instagram.com/bestfootforward.org.au)

 [www.facebook.com/bestfootforward.org.au](https://www.facebook.com/bestfootforward.org.au)

 [www.linkedin.com/company/bestfootforward](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bestfootforward)

To help our environment further and cut unnecessary costs, we invite you to sign up to receiving this newsletter by email at:

<https://reachingout2020.erf.org.au/subscribe>





# Empowering A GENERATION

## Brenda Amato has done something amazing!

In 2017, when she was 14 years old, she founded the ERCWA Multicultural AFL Umpiring Academy – the first of its kind in WA, and perhaps Australia.

Bringing cultural diversity into AFL Umpiring has been a long term objective of the AFL and Brenda is smashing barriers by introducing umpiring to multicultural young people. Her umpires have broken cultural stereotypes, inspired mainstream Australians with their professionalism and skill and brought a strong sense of cultural harmony to the community.

Brenda was born in Uganda before migrating to Australia with her family in 2007. Shortly after her arrival, she joined the Butler Falcons; a multicultural all-girls AFL team run by ER Camps WA.




Brenda found her passion for Australia's game through this program and was inspired to give back by empowering other young people through her Umpiring Academy.

Now in its fourth year of operation, the Academy has developed over 60 umpires. Several have entered the talent pathway, umpiring in their respective districts and earning an income.

Brenda is considered a role model by her peers and, for her efforts, won the title of WA Young Person of the Year in 2019.

## You Can Help

Support the work of Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia).

<h3>\$50</h3> <p>Helps women like Aliyah get life changing training and funds to start a cafeteria business in South Sudan.</p> 	<h3>\$500</h3> <p>Provides an entire year's worth of inclusive education for students like Geoffrey at the Kurt Fearnley Centre for Special Needs in Mukuru slum Nairobi.</p> 	<h3>\$5,000</h3> <p>Helps "Eddie on the Road" provide vital programs and services for at risk youth in remote indigenous communities in the Pilbara, Western Australia.</p> 
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# OF, FOR AND BY *The Children*

Children in India face threats to their standards of living, health, education and justice. PRATYeK's formal Children's Parliaments provide children a voice to keep duty bearers accountable to the delivery and realization of child rights with a particular emphasis on the last (marginalized) child.

120 'YASH Kids' who belong to marginalized communities are provided tuition to support their school curriculum, Creative English speaking & math classes, computer classes & midday meals after school. They participate in the 'YASH Children's Parliament (YCP)' where young leaders come together to discuss issues they face in daily life and to find solutions themselves.

With the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, the project was able to move to an online teaching system and courses on COVID-19, Global Goal Keepers & Earth Pro-Activist were delivered.

**Due to the generosity of ERFA donors:**

all students passed their courses with flying colors;

one student was awarded 3rd prize from hundreds of participants in a World Environment Day poster competition;

YASH kids created a page on social media to spread awareness about the Convention on the Rights of the Child, human rights and earth rights; families in need were provided rations; and YASH Kids raised funds by selling homemade masks ■

# *A New Chapter*

## AT RUBEN CENTRE

After 10 years of dedicated service to the Ruben Centre in Nairobi Kenya, Br. Frank O'Shea will be stepping down from his role as Director. Frank has been a huge part in the growth and operations of the Ruben Centre and has spent years of dedicated, visionary and tireless service to the people of Mukuru. His leadership has seen so many life changing programs come to fruition, including the growth of the Ruben Primary School to nearly 3000 students and also the Ruben Health Clinic's Maternity Wing, which is changing the face of childbirth in Mukuru.

We thank Frank for his years of service and compassion to the greater Mukuru Community. We welcome Mr Nicolas Makau in his role as the new Ruben Director, and we wish him all the very best. We are sure he will bring his own brand of compassion and leadership to the Ruben Centre, and we look forward to supporting and working with him ■



# YES, I would like to support the work of Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) in

*Liberating lives through an empowering education.*

Please tick the region you would like your donation to go to:

Overseas Programs     Australian Programs

Please accept my donation for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## OR become a monthly supporter

I wish to show my support and be there for people in need every day of the year. I want to provide ongoing monthly support to Edmund Rice Foundation.

\$20 per month     \$100 per month     \$500 per month     My choice of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

## MY PAYMENT DETAILS

Visa     Mastercard     Amex

Credit Card Number   

Expiry Date: (mm/yy)      /

Card Holder Name:

Signature:

## BANK TRANSFER

Should you wish to make a donation by bank transfer, please contact us on 07 3621 9649 or email [info@erf.org.au](mailto:info@erf.org.au).

## PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

**For overseas projects:** please make cheques out to Edmund Rice Overseas Aid Fund

**For Australian projects:** please make cheques out to Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia)

## GET INVOLVED

I am interested in information on immersion programs     The business I work for is interested in supporting ERFA's work

## MY CONTACT DETAILS

If your contact details have changed please update them here:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_


Address: \_\_\_\_\_


Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my receipt sent to the above email address to help save administration costs and make sure more of my donation goes where it is needed most

I would like to receive information about leaving a Gift in my Will to Edmund Rice Foundation

I have already left a Gift in my Will to Edmund Rice Foundation

 Complete the form and return it to **PO BOX below**

 Call us on **07 3621 9649** with your credit card details

 Donate online at **[www.erf.org.au](http://www.erf.org.au)**

website: [www.erf.org.au](http://www.erf.org.au) | phone: **07 3621 9649** | email: [info@erf.org.au](mailto:info@erf.org.au) | postal: **PO Box 130, Virginia BC QLD 4014**







# Interview with JESSICA DEWHURST

Jessica Dewhurst is a human rights defender, Queens Young Leader and ERI UN Youth Ambassador from South Africa. She is the Founder and CEO of the award winning human rights organisation The Justice Desk (ERFA partner program), which focuses on educating, advocating and equipping youth, government, civil society and vulnerable groups across South Central Africa in human rights. Jessica has worked across the globe in the fight for fundamental human rights and has received countless awards for her work.

Most recently she received a medal from Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, and was named Glamour's Woman of the Year in Activism. Her organisation is a partner of the Nobel Peace Prize Summit, and The Queens Commonwealth Trust. Jessica is a passionate and proud South African, who believes in the power of everyday activists, especially among the youth.



## Can you tell us about your background?

I began as a young South African, hearing of the magnificent "rainbow nation" that was not truly reflected in the lives of everyday South Africans. I dedicated my life to the fight for fundamental human rights, challenging systemic injustice, and using my privilege in order to create platforms for the voices of ALL people to be heard and respected.

Since starting The Justice Desk in 2013, it has gone on to grow into an incredible team of change-makers across the globe, who have changed the lives of over 800,000 people!

## How did you become involved in the Edmund Rice network?

I began my Edmund Rice journey in 2003 when I attended Christian Brothers College, St John's, as a student, in Cape Town, South Africa. I was mentored by an incredible Christian Brother called Br Paul Hurley. He took a chance on me, and was the catalyst for me choosing to use my life for good. I went on to start The Justice Desk within the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, which is one of equality, justice and human rights.

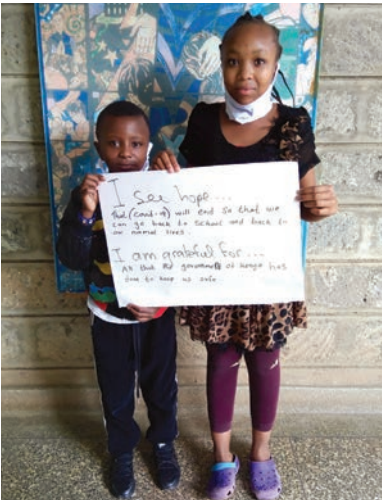
## What inspires you most in your work?

Working in communities and meeting the real heroes working hard, each and every day, to make their communities safer and more just places. These are the people that inspire me! Mothers, fathers, teachers, community leaders, youth – everyone playing their part to build the country they deserve. Spending time with them, learning from them, and loving them, is the greatest blessing I could ever ask for. It's a privilege to serve alongside my fellow South Africans, and it is something I don't take for granted.

## What difference has the Edmund Rice program made to your life?

Working at The Justice Desk has shaped me into a fierce and determined activist, with a deep love and passion for people. No matter the amount of negative things I see in our communities or on the news – they don't matter. Because I have also seen the incredible acts of kindness, generosity, compassion and love that are in our communities - which have resulted in my unyielding belief in the inherent goodness that is within us all. ■





# Teachers Training Teachers



## IN NEW KENYAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM

Clever use of donor funding has seen Edmund Rice Catholic Education Centre (ERCEC) in Embulbul roll out an initiative to ensure its teachers are compliant with the new Kenyan Ministry of Education Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) curriculum. The school invested some of its teacher training budget to formally train two ECDE teachers who then went on to train other teachers at the school in a “train the trainer” style system.

Once preschool teachers were trained they worked with the Year 1 teachers

to handover the methodologies and syllabus for the graduating class cohort. The Year 1 teachers then trained and mentored the Year 2 teachers.

This approach meant that resources for teacher development were not all spent on the one identified area. It also ensured close cooperation between the primary teachers, strengthened team teaching and it provided role modelling for the children and rest of the staff.

Ten primary teachers have now been trained under this approach ■



# Supporting Teachers

## IN TIMOR-LESTE

A recent survey in Timor-Leste showed that at the end of grade one, 70% of children could not read a single word. Given that 71% of primary school teachers only have a high school education, and many have no formal qualifications, this outcome isn't so surprising.

ERFA's implementing partner, Mary Mackillop Today, provides training for teachers in teaching methodology, creative classroom set-up, and child development. This empowers teachers to provide quality education in the classroom for their students.

Project Coordinator Ivone Ximenes explains: “For example,

*we provide teachers with feedback from our observations, and actively demonstrate reading books to students. We also focus on strengthening the correct way to pronounce words”.*

Follow up monitoring has shown teachers are implementing the new skills and using MMT national curriculum-aligned Tetun literacy resources. Through increasing teacher skills and knowledge, hundreds of children are now receiving quality education in safe and inclusive classroom environments, giving them the best possible start to their education ■



EDMUND RICE  
YOUTH CENTRE

*Interview with*

## JOHN MCKENNA

**When did you first become involved with the Edmund Rice network? (what inspired you to do that?)**

It was some 53 years ago and I am still inspired by the wonderful work of the Christian Brothers to help the less fortunate of our society both here and overseas. In all those years, I have witnessed their work expand from schools and orphanages to all kinds of caring ministries, both here and overseas.

**What have you seen/learnt through your involvement that you would like to share with others?**

Though we have our challenges at home, we Australians do indeed live in 'the Lucky Country' and by being involved in the Edmund Rice network I have realized how generous Australians can be, not only with their financial support but also with the use of their time and skills.

**What inspires you most about the work undertaken by Edmund Rice Foundation?**

It is outward looking. It is there to support those who can't support themselves. It is well organized, accountable and does make a difference.

**What impact has supporting the work made to your life?**

I've had the privilege of meeting and working with people who have the best of motives. I've been inspired by the examples of people working both here and especially overseas who are making an extraordinary difference to our troubled world usually without much recognition and against tough opposition. They keep on going so I feel it is essential they be supported in their work.

**What would you say to people thinking about how best to support Edmund Rice Foundation?**

Get involved. We all have different stresses in our lives and calls on our time, skills or finances but any involvement no matter how small will make a difference. And though it's not the reason to become involved, the personal rewards I've mentioned already are wonderful ■

# THANK YOU

After 3 years as Donor Relations/School Partnerships Manager for ERFA, we farewell Jarrod Turner. Jarrod has been instrumental in building and managing ERFA's relationship with Edmund Rice schools and we have seen some fantastic fundraising and support from schools through this. The Best Foot Forward campaign was a huge focus for Jarrod over the past few years as was his involvement in ERFA Gone Trekking and Brisbane fundraising events.

Jarrod has brought so much passion, dedication and empathy to his role and will be missed by the ERFA team and its community. We look forward to forming new relationships with him as he begins his new role as Head of Sport at Ambrose Treacy College in Brisbane.

*All the best JT!*

