

## PROJECT REPORTS AUSTRALIA

In 2013 the Edmund Rice Foundation directed \$250,000 to the Edmund Rice Camps program throughout Australia. Edmund Rice Camps program provide positive holiday experiences for young people aged 7 - 16 years who would not otherwise be able to enjoy them. Many of the participants come from what could be considered as marginalized or disadvantaged backgrounds. The camps also provide welcome respite for parents and families.

Edmund Rice Camps also supports and encourages the growth and development of young adult volunteers, through empowering them to assist those in need in the community, as well as the opportunity to develop confidence and skills as a leader and a chance to grow in empathy and a broader social understanding and awareness.

The funding support from the Edmund Rice Foundation in 2013 has benefited over 500 young adult leaders and 1000 marginalized children directly from involvement in the camp and program experiences offered nationally. Indirectly the impact on families and community is immeasurable.





## MARY RICE DAY CARE CENTRE

*Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya*

The Mary Rice Centre (MRC) for children with intellectual and physical disabilities has had quite a few “homes” in recent years, on account of compulsory land acquisitions by government for road construction. For the past year MRC has been renting space in the Charles Lwanga Primary School.

In 2013 Foundation funding assisted with the purchase and installation on a concrete slab of 3 shipping containers, which have been converted into 2 classrooms, a kitchen, an occupational therapy room and an office. This has freed-up the former space for the establishment of a micro-finance program and gathering space for parents’ meetings.

The new MRC micro-finance scheme is available for the parents and guardians of the children registered and participating in MRC’s programs. These are families who live in Kibera,

the largest urban slum in Africa situated around 5km from central Nairobi. The scheme makes available small, interest-free loans to enable people to initiate their own income generating livelihood activities. The Foundation is delighted by the introduction of the micro-finance program because it will provide the opportunity for many families in the Kibera slum to earn an income which will allow them to pursue a better life.

An important addition to the Mary Rice Centre in 2013 was the collaboration with the Kenyan Institute of Special Education (KISE). The support of KISE enabled the Mary Rice Centre to assess the different types of disabilities that are presented to the staff at school on a daily basis. This in turn provided a more efficient and effective therapy and teaching environment for each student. The collaboration with KISE also enhanced the opportunity for the Mary Rice Centre to the transition students to other areas of learning within the Kenyan education network.



## RUBEN CENTRE *Nairobi, Kenya*

**PROJECT LEADER:** Frank O'Shea

The Ruben Centre group of projects continued to offer extraordinary educational, health, advocacy and social development services for the people of the Mukuru slum in 2013.

The Mukuru Slum was born in Nairobi's Industrial district approximately 35 years ago when people began to build make-shift homes near the factories they worked in. The area now has a population of over 600,000 and is considered as one of the poorest urban areas in all of Africa. The Ruben Centre, with its three core areas of Education, Health and Community Development has successfully implemented a community model that engages with the local community in order to provide real solutions to the many challenges that arise by living in the Mukuru slum. Some of the highlights in 2013 include;

1. The Ruben Primary school enrolment has reached over 2000 students.
2. The Ruben medical clinic added a new wing which has enabled the clinic to conduct over 60,000 consultations for the people of Mukuru.
3. The Construction of a community hall and a new wing of classrooms for the Primary school.

The support of these programs could not have taken place without our partnership with the 500 Supporters Group, The Friends of Africa committee and the St Francis Xavier Community. The combined fundraising and profiling events organized by these groups has been vital in the sustained future of the Ruben centre. The Foundation is proud to be associated with the best practice principles of development on offer at Ruben and there is mounting excitement of the plans for a new secondary school for the people of Mukuru.

[www.rubencentre.org](http://www.rubencentre.org)



## STAR SUPPORT GROUP *Yambio, South Sudan*

**PROJECT LEADER: Br Denis Reardon**

With assistance from the Foundation, Star Support Group continues to enable people living with HIV/AIDS to live positive, dignified lives with access to medication, nutrition, social support and awareness raising workshops.

There are currently 1270 adult members enrolled in STAR, of whom 75% are female. 110 are bedridden. There are also more than 200 children who have been orphaned by the disease. The STAR Support Program also

assisted families affected by HIV/AIDS to continue with their educational needs, mainly school fees, uniforms and stationery. STAR counsellors and carers undertook visitation of bedridden members in their homes and in the Nzara Hospital and provided education and resource support. Throughout 2013 a number of 5 day HIV/AIDS awareness raising workshops were conducted. Each workshop focused on the education/prevention of the HIV and Tuberculosis virus.

Work is underway to establish sustainable livelihood self-help programs for STAR members, which will include

expansion of the STAR farming /market gardening scheme and the revival of its former textile training program. This initiative is being enabled by networking with relevant diocesan and local government agencies. The recognition of STAR within the wider community is considerable. The causes and means of infection are better understood, sufferers are now accepted more positively in the wider community and their general health is much better as a result of medication and nutrition.

## COMBONI SISTERS' HOSPITAL *Nzara, South Sudan*

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR: Sr (Dr) Sara Antonini**

The Nzara hospital which works in partnership with the Star Support Group in Yambio is the main hospital for the Nzara and Yambio communities consisting of approximately 50,000 people.

In 2013 the Foundation supported the clinic in the diagnosis, treatment and education of a number of opportunistic infections. In particular the Foundation supported the following main areas: implementation of new services of maternal health, the establishment of a referral system for emergencies in need of obstetric health, medical equipment that improved vital laboratory diagnostic analysis and the development of an out-patient department and pediatric ward.

Each of these programs supported by the Foundation seek to promote the right to good health and accessibility to essential medical care and treatment, giving special attention to the most vulnerable categories, namely leprosy, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The number of patients detained in the ward during the year 2013 was 4486 (2700 children under 5); the number of outpatients' visits was 29308 compared with 24600 in 2012.

In the ART/HIV clinic the Nzara clinic enrolled during the year 460 new clients HIV positive and 379 patients with AIDS were put on ARVs; In the month of September 2013 the Hospital started the implementation of Provider Initiated Testing and Counselling (PITC), with 122 HIV tests performed, out of which 25 individuals were diagnosed positive (20%).

In 2013, the hospital laboratory continued to offer diagnostic services and received the visit of a consultant in Hematology in the months of November and December. This visit helped establish capacity in the area of blood transfusion, with an assessment about the possibility of establishing a Hospital Blood Bank toward the end of 2014. In last year's annual report it was identified that the major ongoing challenge for Nzara Hospital was to find the resources required to meet the growing demand for prevention and medical programs. This is still a very relevant issue for the Nzara Hospital. The ongoing political instability in South Sudan provides further economic stresses for the hospital.





## BR BEAUSANG CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE *Embulbul, Kenya*

**PRINCIPAL:** Mr Peter Shanahan

Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre, now with 10 years of service to the local people, has the entire school – primary and secondary - located on the same campus.

The demand for positions in the school remains strong and reflects the reputation Brother Beausang has gained over these years. It welcomes students of all tribes, cultures and religions from neighboring communities. There are 765 students (Primary 370, Secondary 395, Boys 423, and Girls 342). They are cared for by 64 staff (Teachers 35 and other staff (administration, kitchen, library, science and security) 29. All classes are full.

The school is vigilant in keeping the fees as low as possible whilst providing a quality education with good resources and this has been achievable through the ongoing support of the school's supporters and sponsors. The operational budget for 2013 was \$470k. Average teacher salaries are \$4,600 p.a. 2013 Income Sources were: School fees 27%, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia 50%, Other Donors 23%

The BBCEC Strategic Directions 2012 – 2015 has five key areas: Community, Resources and Facilities, Pastoral Care, Excellence and Sustainability. Priorities for 2014 are a review of the school's building Master Plan, the formation of a school advisory board / council, community involvement and the identification of local funding sources. Investigations took place regarding a bore hole and an application for funding from ERFA was submitted last year and was approved for 2014.

[www.bbcec.org](http://www.bbcec.org)





## EDMUND RICE SINON SECONDARY SCHOOL *Arusha, Tanzania*

**HEADMASTER: Br Francis Nkwabi**

The Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School is currently educating 1350 students. The school is regarded as one of the leading educational opportunities for youth in Arusha.

The Foundation support in 2013 enabled completion of the refurbishment of ERSSS School Hall as a multi-purpose facility. The redevelopment was completed in time for the annual Edmund Rice Day celebrations in August at which Br Bill Wilding (General Manager, Edmund Rice Foundation) was mgeni rasmi (special guest) for the day.

In conjunction with the hall redevelopment has been the construction of a multi-purpose outdoor courtyard adjacent to the Hall, which is being utilized for assemblies,

recreational activities, physical education and basketball away from the dust bowls where these activities had previously taken place. Another recent development has been the construction of a dormitory to replace the one destroyed by fire at the end of February and which accommodates all the Form 4 and 5 at the school. Toward the end of 2013 a group of past students joined the volunteer staff of ERSSS in order to encourage current students to concentrate on their studies. The Foundation is delighted by the best practice pedagogy that is on offer for all students.

[www.edmundricesinon.com](http://www.edmundricesinon.com)





## EDUCATION FOR LIFE

*Eldoret, Kenya*

In Kenya, HIV/AIDS is estimated to affect about 6.3% of the population. The EFL project supports sufferers and affected families living in the slum areas of Eldoret and works to create awareness and protect their rights and dignity.

The Foundation support for the EFL project in 2013 mainly centred upon the education of local residents on the prevention of HIV. These education and prevention programs were combined with an income generating micro-finance initiative that looked to ensure that each individual affected by HIV was able to still support their family.

The program, known in Eldoret as the Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) has trained over 200 families. EFL is currently assisting 75 adult clients to initiate sustainable

income generating activities such as tailoring, production of cultural artefacts, poultry farming and market gardening for which small interest free loans are provided through a microfinance scheme.

To promote economic empowerment EFL has 9 groups of 20 participating in the Saving & Internal Lending Communities (SILC) scheme whereby group members work together to save for their mutual benefit. EFL also offered educational support, including fees, uniforms, books and sanitary pads for 300 orphans and vulnerable children. Nutritional support in the form of beans, porridge and milk is being provided to around 300 families.

