



Edmund Rice
FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA
Liberating Lives Through Education

REACHING OUT

PRESENCE | COMPASSION | LIBERATION

www.erf.org.au



Celebrating 20 years of giving hope

Reaching Out has been the means of telling of the needs and achievements for the disadvantaged since first published in 1999. It has reached so many generous supporters.



PHILIPPINES



LIVELIHOOD GROUP



ROSENIANO BACK ON THE FARM

The Edmund Rice Ministries at Kabankalan and Maasin train local peoples in Health and Community Development programs. Staff and volunteers go to communities far and wide to screen for health problems, especially sight and hearing, and to help organise local community self-help structures. The following stories illustrate this outreach to poor and isolated communities.

Edmund Rice Ministries *Kabankalan*

Nabalikan community, one of 38 such communities, is located in the village of Oringao, Kabankalan. Their livelihood project in co-operative farming and marketing commenced in June 2018 with 26 members in their group. The President led every meeting very well and actively participated in all ERM activities and meetings. He also offered a lot to build their permanent meeting house where they can assemble and gather as a community. All the members contributed the materials needed and they gave their labour to help one another to build their meeting house.

At every meeting they are always in perfect attendance. Even though they are far from each other they give time and come early to attend the meetings. During their meeting, they decided to divide themselves into 2 groups; each group has a schedule to provide snacks every time they have meetings, at their own expense

or coming from their own crops. Within 6 months they were able to raise substantial savings from their livelihood project.

Last December we celebrated a general assembly of community groups, held at the Kabankalan Catholic College gymnasium and the Nabilakan community won the most members attending the assembly and was champion for the 'Community Got Talent' contest. They are working hand in hand in order to develop their livelihood project. Community Livelihood has contributed a lot of change in their lives, not only in their economic status but most importantly their relationship as one community.

It was our pleasure to work with them because even though they are experiencing poverty it does not hinder their dreams and hopes. The smile on their faces every time we visit them overwhelms us.

Edmund Rice Ministries

Maasin, Philippines

Roseniano Bagay ceased working on the farm since he had problems with his vision 7 years ago. He had his daughter, Violeta supporting him for several years while taking care of her own family. Just like any other typical Filipino family, they share in finding ways and means to overcome every trial they encounter. When Violeta heard about ERM, she immediately visited the centre hoping to see some light at the end of the tunnel. An initial check-up pointed to Roseniano's having a problem with cataracts. He was then referred to ERM's partner ophthalmologist to verify the assessment and for possible intervention. He was immediately scheduled for an operation. Although there were apprehensions, Roseniano courageously went to the hospital with his daughter. He underwent a successful operation and is now back on his feet. During a recent the staff visit, he was out in the field once again planting rice in preparation for the rainy season.

PARENT EMPOWERMENT TRAINING

Mary Rice Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

During his early years Josaphat was sickly on and off with pneumonia due to his underdeveloped lungs and he also suffered tonsillitis. He overcame these challenges and his mother was happy. Then at two years she realised that he could not settle down. He was always running up and down. He was taken into a mainstream school but the teachers complained that Josaphat would not settle down. The mother was advised to take him to Kenyatta National Hospital for assessment. Then came the bombshell, "Your son has mental retardation." That is how the doctors broke the news. So what do you do? You have to take him to a special school and that is how they landed at the Mary Rice Centre. On assessment, we found that Josaphat had no verbal speech, he communicated through pointing, and he was hyperactive and very dependent on his mother for all activities of daily living.

Exactly one year later after admission at the Mary Rice Centre, Josaphat can now settle down in class for up to 30 minutes; his concentration span has greatly improved. He can speak simple words and can repeat after you when you speak to him. Josaphat can also feed himself, go to the toilet by himself; in fact, he can ask for permission from the teacher to run to the toilet and back to class. He can also bathe and dress independently with support and assistance from a caregiver. We are quite excited and look forward to even greater achievements. Disability is not inability. All children need a little help, a little hope and someone who believes in them.

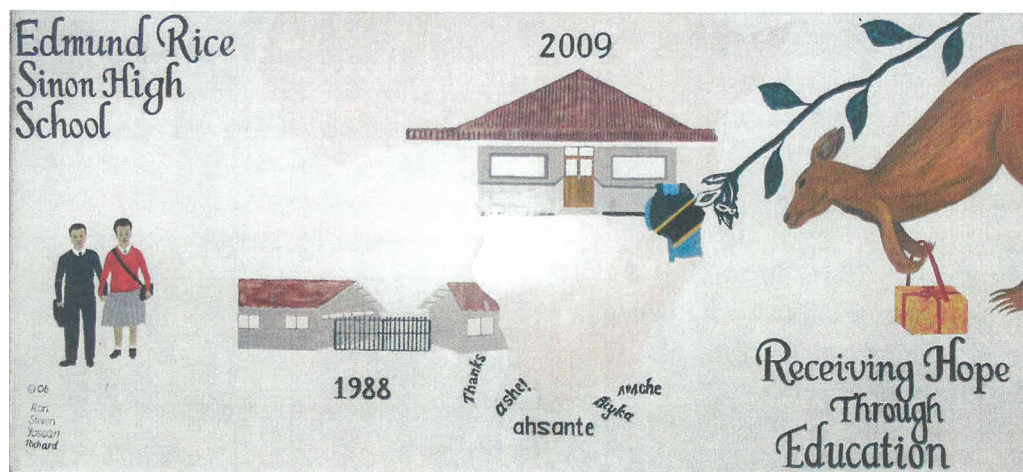
Edmund Rice Sinon School

Arausha, Tanzania

The celebration of Edmund Rice day this year was a doubly happy event. As well as the school community marking the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice, it was also a day of thanksgiving for the recent Form 6 results in national examinations, which were the school's best ever. Chaplains from various denominations contributed to an ecumenical prayer service.

The guest of honour was Br. Tom Kearney, former District Leader in East Africa. He highlighted the humble background of Edmund Rice, as well as the faith that enabled him to meet challenges and achieve so much. He reminded all that studying is not just about getting A's, but rather what you do with that A for the good of society. Ever since the introduction of A-level (Forms 5 and 6), these are the best results ever achieved. The performance was happily received by everyone in the school community. The struggles that staff and students had gone through in preparation of these exams were rewarded. Of the 199 candidates, 197 have qualified for university admission which will commence later this year. This school was the first project supported by the Foundation in Africa. Enabling it to build up and then introduce A-level required substantial contributions.

With the leadership of Australian Brothers and the Foundation's funding, a large and very effective school now serves this wide-ranging region.



CARTOON ON SCHOOL BUILDING



ROBERT AT VOCATIONAL TRAINING

STAR *Yambio, South Sudan*

Star Support Group has an overall objective of empowering people living with HIV with self-reliant skills. This is achieved through a microfinance scheme, agricultural activities, and a tailoring course. We conducted a workshop to evaluate how microfinance has impacted on the lives of the clients. This is a clear indication of how microfinance is changing the lives of Star members positively and the program should be highly embraced to reduce the dependence syndrome that exists among the local people.

The microfinance project has really supported me in many ways which I couldn't believe I could have managed before introduction to the project. When I first received a loan I was very much afraid in that it was difficult for me, because I thought I won't manage to run my own business but with time that has been proved wrong.

Over the last six months I have seen my business grow from selling local brew to selling food stuffs in the market. Now I can feed my family two meals in a day. Before, that was a dream and not only feeding but I have witnessed changes in the health of my children. I feel much more in control of my life and my family since I depend less on people for support to respond to my daily needs.

I had a house whose roof was leaking but I managed to purchase grass to finish it and by my own efforts have managed to secure better accommodation for my children. I am grateful for the continuous support and the good works the Brothers are doing in our community.

The Star Support Group also hosts over 500 orphan and vulnerable children and 35 volunteers on Saturdays with the aim of giving the children an opportunity to play, smile, have fun as children, and have quality food, which they cannot afford at home. The day ends with children having a quality lunch and each gets a piece of soap to remind them of the importance of hygiene.

Ruben Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

Robert enrolled for the dressmaking course class in 2017 after referral to the vocational training program by one on the social workers in the centre. After completion of the one year course he passed the grade test. In 2018 he successfully completed the grade two exams and developed a great interest in fashion and design. Because of his hard work and determination, we referred him for consideration to the Ruben Centre Transition Program.

After assessment, Robert qualified for an interest free transition loan and a sewing machine was purchased for him to start his dressmaking business. He was also provided with space where he was able to set up shop.

In 2019, he has worked extra hard and was able to clear the loan for his machine. In June he exited the program and managed to rent his own shop outside Ruben Centre and has employed two people, one of whom is a former classmate.



ORPHANS ANXIOUS FOR MEAL-TIME

In 2018 ERFA:



Directly impacted the lives of
103,084 PEOPLE
(and hundreds of thousands more indirectly)



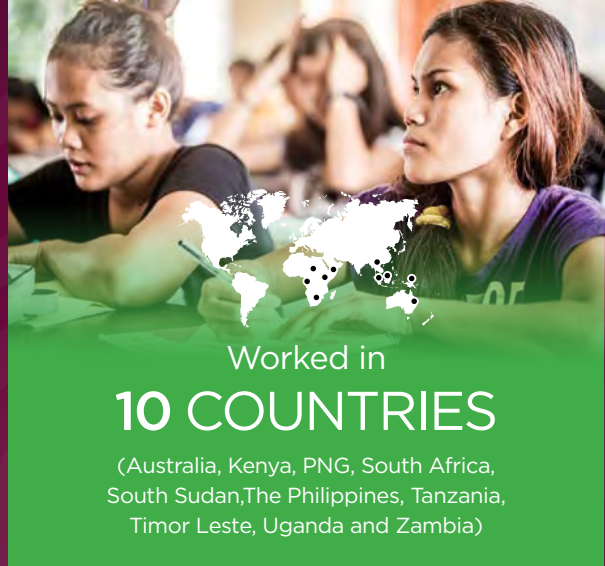
Partnered in delivering
29 PROGRAMS

Through ERFA
Partner Programs:



542 PEOPLE

with disability and living in
poverty were directly supported



Worked in
10 COUNTRIES

(Australia, Kenya, PNG, South Africa,
South Sudan, The Philippines, Tanzania,
Timor Leste, Uganda and Zambia)



Disbursed to programs
\$2,300,676 GLOBALLY



49,754 CHILDREN
received health and education services



31,154 WOMEN
were supported in economic
empowerment, health, vocational
training and mentoring

500 SUPPORTERS LUNCHEONS

Another 500 Supporters Luncheon was celebrated at the MCG in May. Like its many predecessors it was highly organised, most enjoyable, and much focussed on its purpose. This one set a new record in funds raised for the Ruben Centre in Nairobi. Since Noel O'Brien organised the first in 2001, these luncheons in May and October each year have raised from the generous supporters of Melbourne over \$5 million. The very effective committee, originally led by Noel O'Brien and now by his son Patrick, gave great support to the development of Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School in Tanzania, and to the spectacular growth and ongoing support of the Ruben Centre in Nairobi. With gifted MC, Leon Wiegard, and the guest speakers from the AFL and the racing world, the luncheons have been the Foundation's most successful events. The dining room at the MCG is filled to its 500 capacity each time. In May this year the AFL 2018 Brownlow Medallist Tom Mitchell and his father Barry were guest speakers. Tom was presented with a Hawthorn jumper knitted by mothers at Ruben.

EDMUND RICE CENTRE

Mirrabooka – Perth, WA

Abouk arrived in Australia as a refugee and after completing 500 hours at TAFE she joined Edmund Rice Centre WA (ERCWA) as a Language for Living in Australia student. Over ten years her language skills have improved in all areas, speaking, writing and reading. She soon rose to top of her class and has recently been invited to complete further studies at TAFE. After several weeks at TAFE her teacher asked her where she had learnt English. Abouk told her all about her experience at ERCWA over the past few years. The teacher provided positive feedback around the way Abouk had been taught and expressed that the style of teaching she was exposed to would prove advantageous for her future studies. Having acquired English skills, Abouk has secured employment in the aged care sector. Abouk still attends ERCWA to continue building her English competency and supporting others to do the same.



ABOUK IN CLASS



TOM MITCHELL
BROWNLOW MEDALLIST 2018



NOEL & PATRICK O'BRIEN

BIG THANK YOU

To the very many who have responded with gifts for the underprivileged, we thank them for their generosity. We also extend to the many people who have given their services over the last 20 years to produce and distribute Reaching Out. Their assistance has been invaluable. It has been a community operation for the needy of the world.

COMING EVENTS

October 13

Villa Verde Garden Party – Melbourne

October 29

The 500 Supporters' Group Spring Racing Luncheon – MCG

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



ACFID
MEMBER

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