

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 ERFA. 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



Supporters STEP UP FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS BFF 2022



ERFA again asked people to dig deep and 'step up' to support women and girls on November 15 for the annual Best Foot Forward Day of Giving, and we are delighted that the annual fund-raising challenge was accepted with gusto.

The campaign is an opportunity to reflect on issues relating to gender, development and opportunity, and focus on the many positive stories of impact that flow from the programs that ERFA supports in this area.

Although this year has been marked by financial challenges in Australia and around the world, this hasn't stopped our generous supporters from giving to this worthy cause yet again.

The BFF funding target for this year of \$150,000 was exceeded with the final total reaching \$154,400 – an amazing effort which will allow ERFA to continue to support vital programs that bring opportunity to women and girls in need ■

Thank You



DID YOU KNOW...



Accreditation
Success!

AUSTRALIAN NGO COOPERATION PROGRAM (ANCP)

**Australian
Aid**



ERFA is delighted to announce that our organisation has received base level accreditation with the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Following a rigorous accreditation process that assessed our organisational structure, philosophies, policies and practices, we have joined around 60 other Australian NGOs to receive funding under the ANCP.

The ANCP is a unique Australian development program. It is a partnership between the Australian Government and highly effective Australian Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). For over 45 years, this partnership has supported the most disadvantaged in communities around the world. **You can read more here.**

In 2022/23, three (3) ERFA partner projects will receive funding under the ANCP:

- *The Mbokodo Club Project Empowering Girl Survivors of GBV in South Africa* implemented by **The Justice Desk**
- *Ntsika yeThemba (Pillars of Hope) Young Males Ending GBV in South Africa* implemented by **The Justice Desk**
- *Women's Empowerment and SILC (Savings and Internal Lendings Community) project in Kenya* implemented by **Mirror of Hope**

We thank our partners in these projects for their collaboration and for their incredible work they do in liberating lives.



Relaunch

OF THE LIBERATE LIVES AFL PERTH LUNCHEON

A diverse group of friends and donors from the West gathered for a fundraiser at Fraser's Kings Park on Friday 26th August.

It was wonderful to see this lunch reactivated after 3 years of living with COVID. ERFA is most grateful to Paywise for providing sponsorship of the event, and to their CEO, Neil Allison for bringing together a panel of interesting speakers: Glen Jakovich, Michelle Cowan, Drew Petrie, Peter Mann, Liam

and Geoff Hendricks. These special guests were expertly interviewed by Tim Gossage, who also proved a very effective auctioneer!

ERFA was delighted with the support from the Edmund Rice WA network for the event. The Perth ER Schools – Aquinas, Trinity and CBC Fremantle along with ER Centre WA, all participated to help make this event a great success. Neil's brother, Warren Allison, was also a sponsor of the event through HiSense who donated 'The World's Largest TV' to auction.

We were honoured by the attendance of Brothers Bill Wilding, Max McAppion, George Thornton and Rod Ellyard, Frank O'Shea, John Carrigg and Brian Cleary.

Guests heard from Br Frank O'Shea's niece, Marcelle, who spoke of her heartfelt experience visiting Ruben Centre in Nairobi. Rick Ardon, winner of 10 Logie awards and one of WA's most popular TV personalities, brought the event to a rich conclusion with his own story of CBC Highgate, rediscovery of faith, and a message that it is in giving, we receive ■

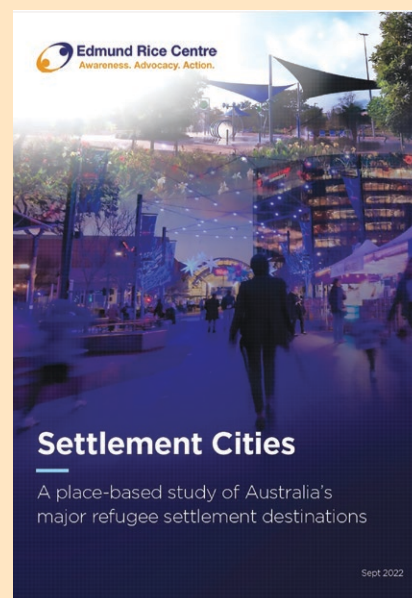
HELPING NEWLY ARRIVED *Refugees Find Their Voice* IN AUSTRALIA

Newly arrived refugees in Australia, especially from war-torn countries like Afghanistan, often find integration into Australian society a challenge. One of the greatest difficulties is finding meaningful employment.

In response, the Edmund Rice Centre NSW has conducted a series of orientation programs in Western Sydney, to assist new arrivals understand the norms of mainstream Australia and have their questions answered by former refugees.

Farid Ghalib, Coordinator of Refugee Programs and a refugee himself says, "Often people struggle to understand the cultural nuances that Australians take for granted, which can make communicating with mainstream Australians, let alone prospective employers, a very difficult exercise".

ERFA supports the Edmund Rice Centre's Settlement Cities program which assists newly arrived refugees by enhancing confidence and providing skills and knowledge to help find employment.



One program volunteer says. . .

"Our role is to help build the people, and they will do the rest".



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To help our environment and cut unnecessary costs, we invite you to sign up to receiving this newsletter by email at: <https://mailchi.mp/erf/reachingout>





Interview with SAMMY MUGA



Sammy Muga works in ERFA's Nairobi branch office and has been seconded to work as the Team Leader at Edmund Rice Centre Nairobi which is a merger of Mary Rice Centre, Edmund Rice Advocacy Network and Edmund Rice Karibu Group. The merger increases efficiency and effectiveness of Edmund Rice work in Nairobi. Sammy is responsible for leading the ERCN team, managing key stakeholder relationships and ensuring that the partnership with the Kibera community is empowering, collaborative and equitable. Sammy studied Community Development, Social Work & Welfare and Social Development and continues to love learning. He is currently pursuing BA in Strategic Development studies, planning and leadership Management.

How did you become involved in the Edmund Rice network?

I grew up in the slums of Kibera (one of the world's largest slums) and became involved with the Edmund Rice Karibu Group where I worked as a volunteer from 2008 to 2015 before being appointed Executive Officer in 2016. In 2013, I started supporting ERFA as an immersion leader coordinating visits for ERFA's Australian supporters.

What inspires you most in your work?

I am a person of incredible resilience with huge compassion and a deep sense of community service. I spend my spare time visiting orphanages within the slums of Nairobi, caring for children, helping them to feel worthy and appreciated and putting a smile on their faces. I also visit people in prisons, encouraging them to care for their inmates, to have fun and to study using donated books and pens. In my work at ERCN, I am passionate about fostering effectiveness, efficiency and impact; engaging with the Kibera community and other stakeholders to raise the consciousness about disability inclusiveness and to improve access to services for Children with Disabilities; and supporting households of Children with Disabilities through education.

give us opportunity and not sympathy



What difference has the Edmund Rice network made to your life?

The greatest difference for me is the achievements I have been able to contribute to in the Kibera community. As a result of the support from Australian donors, the community has become tighter and more inclusive, social capital has grown, and the community's skills in representation and advocacy have improved through financial resources, employment, social care and support, environmental sustainability and cultural and sports opportunities.

I am so grateful to the Edmund Rice family.

**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 \$ _____

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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.

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

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 donation to be allocated by ERFA 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 in the **envelope provided**



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

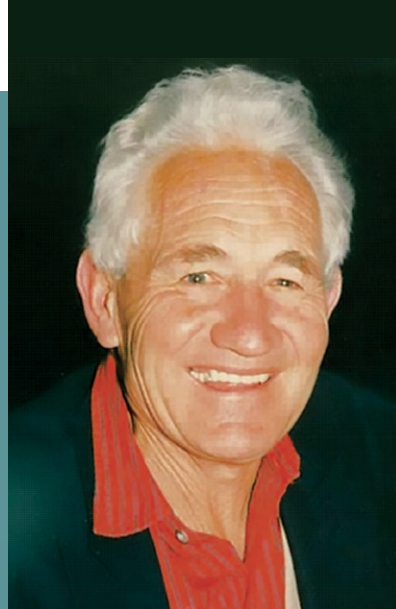


Donate online at
www.erf.org.au



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VALE NOEL O'BRIEN



Noel O'Brien was an extraordinary supporter of ERFA from its inception in 1986. He was the founder of the 500 Supporters luncheons at the MCG.

Over 20 years ago, Noel began what grew into a most effective fundraising event with the twice annual luncheons, specifically for Christian Brothers' development projects in Africa. Over the years, many millions of dollars have been raised, which in more recent years have been devoted to the Ruben Centre, enabling the incredible work to continue.

Noel grew up in Essendon during the Great Depression. The Christian Brothers educated him without charge, for which Noel was forever grateful. While at school, he began selling peanuts at Saturday afternoon VFL matches, expanding his operation to many venues in Melbourne and later his enterprises nationally.

Through persistent hard work and effective networking, he became a successful businessman, specialising in hospitality.

Noel brought many with him with his charisma, intelligence and wisdom. Many a needy schoolboy earned some money at football matches working for Noel on Saturday afternoons. Noel was devoted to his wife, Carmel, and his 7 children. He was very generous and a great supporter of many good causes.

It was only at his funeral that the extent of his benefaction was understood. His support, given to so many of ERFA's works in Africa, was continuous and most memorable.

Noel visited projects in Tanzania and Kenya to see first-hand the issues and needs of people. Understanding that ongoing success of the many projects then being conducted by the Brothers would require more expertise, he enabled staff to receive further training. With his vision, Noel made a difference to a great number of lives. Never did he put himself at the centre of any donation, but rather the cause being advanced.

**He was truly humble.
We are very grateful and will
long remember this great man.**

Rest In Peace.



500 Supporters Luncheon

CELEBRATES ITS FOUNDER



The 500 Supporters Spring Racing Luncheon was this year held at Zinc at Federation Square as the MCG was unavailable due to the international T20 Cricket. The new venue proved to be very popular, as were the speakers. Great supporter and national racing identity Terry Henderson brought leading trainers Annabel Neasham and Graham Hocking arranged for Rob Hickmott to be in attendance. They were very engaging speakers along with VRC Chairman, Neil Wilson. Kath Saundry spoke of her moving experience at Ruben Centre in Mukuru slum. As always, Paul Castran did an incredible job with the auctions. The MC, Shane Healy, facilitated entertaining and informative interviews.

Br Frank O'Shea, former long term Director of the Ruben Centre paid a fitting tribute to recently deceased, Noel O'Brien. Noel's son, Patrick, Chair of the 500 Supporters, led his team to deliver an outstanding and enjoyable event that resulted in one of greatest fundraising efforts for the Spring Racing Lunch to date, with approx. \$200,000 being raised for Ruben Centre ■



Edmund Rice Foundation has made successive trips to Africa recently, to reconnect with program partners after two and a half years disrupted by COVID-19.

ERFA CEO Bren Arkinstall visited Nairobi Kenya in November, following hot on the heels of Jason Bongers and Kate Dixon, who visited South Africa and Kenya in September.

While virtual meetings have become the norm, nothing quite beats a first-hand explanation of how micro-finance empowers women to run their own businesses in the Kibera slum, or how a bio-gas facility linked to a commercial dairy supports sustainably.

Edmund Rice Foundation supports programs that work tirelessly to provide education and training opportunities, and promote justice in some of the world's most marginalised communities. By visiting these programs, ERFA can ensure that the generosity of Australians is being spent wisely, and has the greatest impact in creating lasting, long-term change ■

DID YOU KNOW...



ERFA Visits SYDNEY SCHOOLS

Schools in Sydney were delighted to hear from Edmund Rice legend Br Frank O'Shea in November. Br Frank shared his journey living out the values of presence, compassion, and liberation, including 38 years of service to the developing world.



Br Frank was accompanied by Jason Bongers, with the shared goal of encouraging students to engage in a global fight against injustice and poverty. Br Frank's 28 years in Africa – culminating in 10 years as the Director of the Ruben Centre Nairobi – provided much food for thought during the colourful presentations.

Br Frank was welcomed by the school communities of St Pius X College, Waverley College, St Patrick's College Strathfield, and St Dominic's College ■

REDUCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Through behavioural change



In rural Zambia, girl children often become pregnant, are subsequently forced into marriage and most likely drop out of school. This can happen as early as 13 years of age and marriage is also sometimes seen as a strategy to "beat poverty" by the parents. However, the girls are too young to run a home. They have no prior experience emotionally and physiologically to handle marriage and care for children. The husband is likely unemployed and struggling with alcohol. The Western Cluster Program in Zambia supports strategic and repetitive GBV sensitisation campaigns among communities in Luampa, Limulung and Senanga. They have partnered with local specialists from Government departments, traditional leaders, project committees and volunteers to achieve scale, scope and impact in promoting the rights of children. Reflective dialogue meetings enable a common understanding of the contextual drivers of teenage pregnancy and GBV.

The Program ensures that women and men, boys and girls are represented to examine, validate or dispel perspectives. Subject matter specialists also share legal and policy provisions for protection from GBV with the participants.

One of the mothers reported: "I could not manage to take care of my large family as a single mother. I have eight children. I had to let one of my children get married (she was below the permitted age of marriage). After learning about the legal provisions that protect children from being married off at her age, after the workshop I immediately decided to go and retrieve my daughter from that marriage."

The involvement of girls and boys, women and men in generative dialogue has promoted a sense of collective responsibility amongst stakeholders. Traditional leaders who are said to contribute to teenage pregnancy through a "curriculum" that potentiates early sexual debut, are being openly challenged to make adjustments to their content.

Elizabeth, a traditional initiator whose job is to prepare girls for marriage, said

"GBV is happening in marriages. I will be teaching girls to report GBV to victim support and the hospital. I will teach traditional initiators to teach girls to be reporting abuses in marriages."

Targeted communities are now aware of the laws and policies that provide protection, the reporting channels and where to get survivor support services, including free counselling services ■



Thank you to the ERFA community for your support in 2022.

We would like to wish all our supporters a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We hope that you are able to relax, spend time with family and friends and enjoy some Christmas cheer.

Thank You!