

Presence  Compassion  Liberation



Edmund Rice
FOUNDATION

Liberating Lives Through Education

REACHING OUT



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GET INVOLVED



STORIES TO INSPIRE



LIBERATING EDUCATION

DOCO IN A DAY 2025



And the

WINNERS ARE...

The 2025 Doco in a Day challenge brought together 289 students from across Australia, all using the power of storytelling to highlight the importance of education. In just one school day, they created 87 short documentaries – each full of creativity, purpose, and heart.

Judges Sal Balharrie and Archie Chew were impressed by the depth and originality of the entries. **Team UNT from St Patrick's College Strathfield took out the Best Doco award**, winning a trip to East Africa in 2026. **Team 11 from St Joseph's College Geelong was named Runner-Up**, earning a \$500 JB Hi-Fi voucher sponsored by Paywise. **Highly Commended entries went to Jayden C** (St Joseph's Gregory Terrace), **Team DCA** (Christian Brothers College), **and Team 1** (Parade College).

In the fundraising category, **Aaradhya U from St Joseph's Nudgee College** received the top individual award, while **Team BEP from St Pius X** claimed the team prize, supported by Paywise and JB Hi-Fi.

The initiative not only celebrated storytelling and creativity but also made a real impact by raising funds for education programs worldwide. **Doco in a Day will return in 2026** ■

Use the QR code to view the docos of young storytellers using their voices and creativity to advocate for access to education.



DID YOU KNOW...



GREG HILDEBRAND *Awards*



Honouring Greg's
legacy through creativity
and compassion

Did you know, in 2024, we proudly launched a new partnership with EREA Flexible Schools to honor Greg Hildebrand and bring his legacy to life.

Greg Hildebrand had a vast appetite for life – his energy, creativity and compassion touched everyone around him. In honour of Greg, the Greg Hildebrand Award was established to celebrate those same qualities in others.

A \$5,000 grant was awarded to support youth-led initiatives that reflect Greg's passion, imagination and commitment to making a difference. ■





12,000+
people engaged, in-person,
across Australia

26 days

21 schools

13 donor events and
Edmund Rice community
engagements

During his recent visit to Australia, Karanja quickly became known across the Edmund Rice community for his warmth, energy, and inspiring story. Over several weeks, he travelled to capital and regional cities in all six states, connecting with schools, partners, and supporters who share a common purpose — to create opportunities through education.

Karanja's story is one of strength, determination, and hope. Shaped by lived experiences of poverty and inequality, his message centres on the power of community, compassion, and courage to change lives. It is, at its heart, an Edmund Rice story.

While in Australia, Karanja spoke movingly of his mother's unwavering love and resilience, and of the enduring legacy of Australian Brother Peter Cole, whose kindness and mentorship in Nairobi planted seeds of change that continue to grow today. A special moment of reflection came when Karanja laid flowers at Brother Peter's resting place at Parade College — a simple, heartfelt gesture made possible by the support of the Parade community.

The Edmund Rice Foundation is proud of the impact achieved by team members like Karanja and deeply grateful to the schools, organisations, businesses, and individuals who make this work possible. Together, we continue to provide life-changing opportunities and liberate lives through education. ■



REACHING OUT *Online* ▶

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>



Addressing the UNITED NATIONS

In July this year, **Elizabeth Mwangi** from our Edmund Rice Kenyan office, represented Edmund Rice International at the 59th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Liz delivered a powerful statement on human trafficking, drawing attention to the experiences of women, families, and communities most impacted by exploitation.

Her presence highlighted the strength and leadership of African women and the vital role of grassroots voices in shaping global human rights discussions.

This session brought together governments, civil society, and human rights advocates from around the world to examine urgent global issues. Liz's contribution demonstrated our shared commitment to promoting dignity, justice, and community-led solutions.

Amazing work Liz!

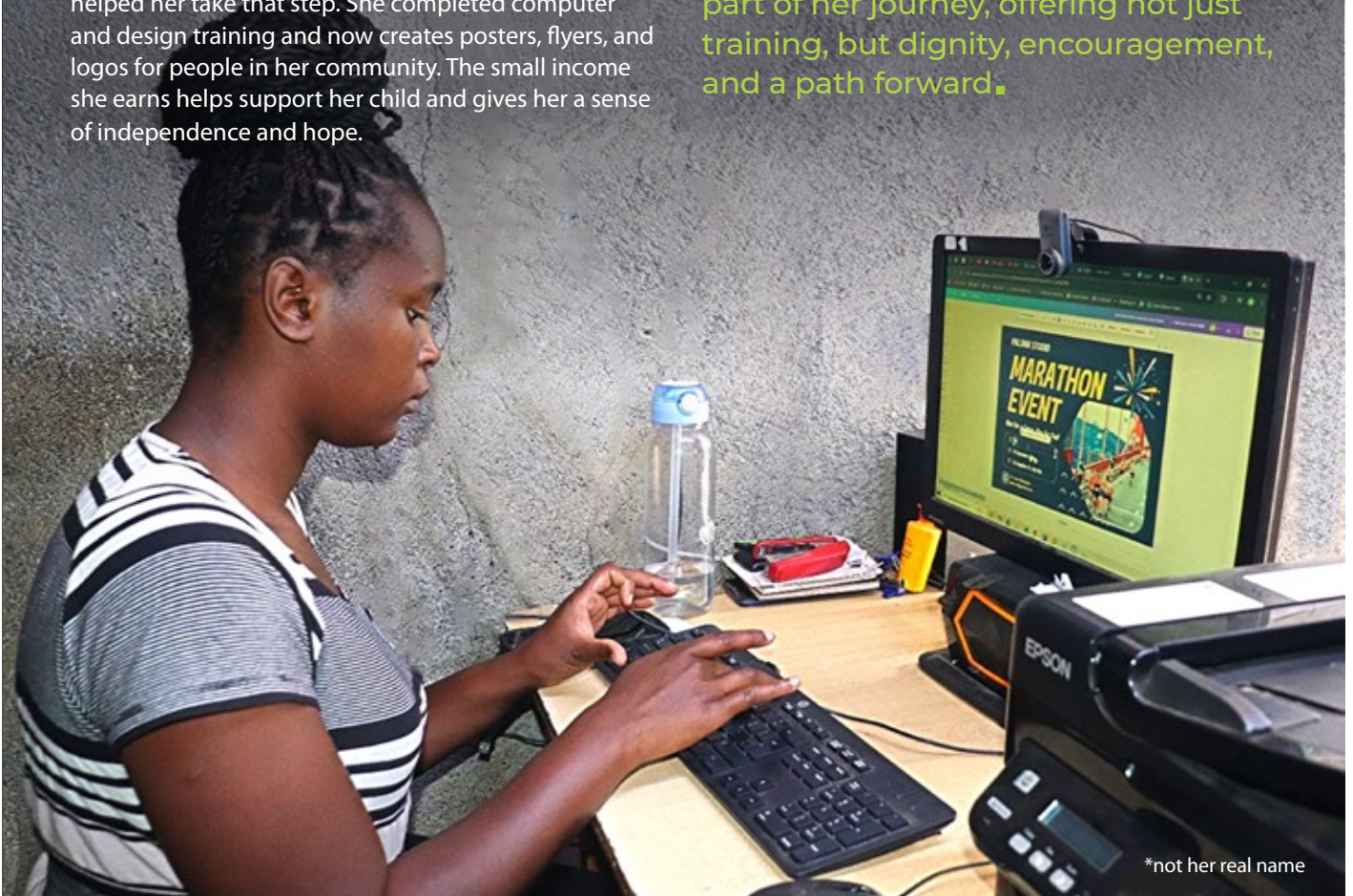
A Path FORWARD

Jayla* is a young mother in Kibera. Like many young women in her community, she faced financial pressures and emotional challenges while caring for her child and trying to build a future.

A friend introduced her to Mirror of Hope, where she was welcomed into the program. Jayla had always dreamed of studying graphic design, and Mirror of Hope helped her take that step. She completed computer and design training and now creates posters, flyers, and logos for people in her community. The small income she earns helps support her child and gives her a sense of independence and hope.

Jayla now feels equipped with skills, confidence, and a renewed sense of direction. She hopes to continue improving her design work and one day open a small studio where she can also mentor other young mothers in Kibera.

Mirror of Hope has been an important part of her journey, offering not just training, but dignity, encouragement, and a path forward.



*not her real name

CONNECTING *Hearts*



Recently, a group of incredible individuals from **BildGroup**, **You Who** and **CV Services Group** joined our Gone Fishing immersion — a journey that went far beyond travel.

Over ten unforgettable days, participants walked alongside project partners in Kenya, listening, learning, and witnessing the power of community-led development.

They met children eager to learn, women leading social enterprises, educators transforming lives, youth gaining vocational skills and pathways to employment, and young people leading sustainable farming education and food security in their communities.

For our participants, the immersion was more than a trip — it was an encounter with hope, humanity, and remarkable resilience.



Participants returned home inspired to take meaningful action — whether through advocacy, fundraising, or simply shifting the way they see and engage with the world.



For our project partners Mirror of Hope CBO, Edmund Rice Centre Nairobi (ERCN), Edmund Rice Dairies, Edmund Rice Catholic Education Centre and Ruben Centre, it was a chance to showcase their remarkable work, strengthen relationships, and remind us all that sustainable change happens when we walk together — with humility, curiosity, and respect.

Thank you to everyone who made this journey possible — our hosts, guides, and the communities who welcomed us so generously. Here's to continuing the conversation, the connection, and the collective impact that began with Gone Fishing ■

THANK YOU

for your support in 2025.

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!





Transforming YOUNG LIVES IN KIBERA

Raised in the heart of Kibera, one of Kenya's largest urban slums, Bria* faced overwhelming challenges. Despite the odds, she completed her primary education but an unplanned pregnancy as a teen forced her to put her dreams on hold.

Through Mirror of Hope's Future Poa (Cool Future) project, Bria found strength in a supportive environment. She gained practical skills in tailoring, received counselling support and learned about self-care, entrepreneurship and life-skills to rebuild her confidence and independence.

“Mirror of Hope has given me the tools to overcome challenges and pursue my dreams. I am grateful to rewrite my story and inspire others.”

Bria is now working towards opening her own fashion parlour to support her family and inspire others in the community. This will encourage other young mothers to embrace change and believe in their potential.

*not her real name



INCLUSION AND HOPE *in Mukuru*

We were delighted to welcome long-time friend of Edmund Rice Foundation, Kurt Fearnley AO, on immersion to East Africa earlier this year. During his visit, Kurt spent time at the Kurt Fearnley Special Needs Unit at the Ruben Centre, a program named in his honour.

The Kurt Fearnley Special Needs Unit supports children living with disability in contexts of poverty, providing tailored education, therapy support, and a learning environment where every child is seen, valued, and encouraged to thrive.

Children learn alongside their peers in an inclusive setting, building confidence, friendships, and a strong sense of belonging. Families also receive practical training and support, helping them to better care for and advocate for their children.

Kurt shared how meaningful it is to see Mukuru children experiencing inclusive education and opportunity. We are grateful for his ongoing advocacy, presence, and belief in what is possible when every child is given the chance to learn and grow.

Scan the QR code to view the video as Kurt shares his reflections from speaking with parents of children with disabilities who attend the Kurt Fearnley Special Needs Unit at Ruben Centre in Mukuru.





Education for ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Amalia* was working at a convenience store but grappled with a sustainable source of income and relied on her son to pay for basic necessities. Despite hardships, she'd dreamed of owning her own small retail store.

Through the support of Edmund Rice Ministries Foundation Philippines Inc. (ERMFPI) Amalia has found a lifeline in the Cebu Families Education for Enhanced Livelihoods (FEEL) project. She learned business, financial and entrepreneurial skills and gained access to seed funding.

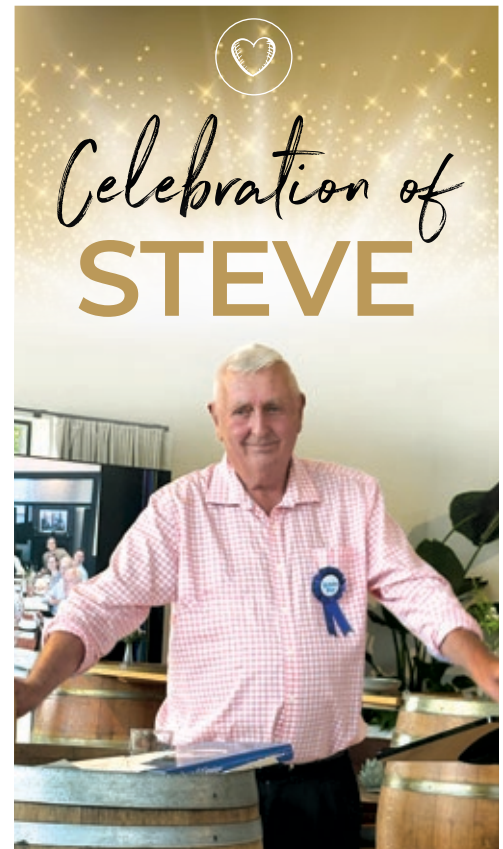
Amalia now has financial stability and can afford not only daily necessities to provides for her family but savings for emergencies and healthcare.

Her enterprise thrives by prioritising essential goods like food and hygiene products, attracting consistent customers and generating significant profits. This success allowed Amalia to expand her store and has brought her empowerment and self-reliance ■

*not her real name



This project was supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) from FY2022-2025.



Celebration of STEVE

A remarkable man, and a true inspiration

This year Steve Graham celebrated an incredible milestone 80 years old, a life of purpose, compassion, and achievement.

A successful businessman, a great ambassador of ERF and a man of great generosity, Steve has devoted much of his life giving to others.

Steve has been guided by a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunities Edmund Rice education gave him, his philosophy has always been simple yet profound; when life gives you opportunities, the greatest reward is to give back. Supported by his wonderful wife Margaret and family, he has an unwavering passion to help others.

Steve has touched countless lives and built a legacy that continues to inspire all who know him. ■



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YES, I would like to support the work of Edmund Rice Foundation in

Liberating lives through an empowering education.



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

GET INVOLVED

☐ I am interested in information on immersion programs ☐ The business I work for is interested in supporting ERF'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 ERF 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

Whenever possible, your donation will be used to support activity that delivers ongoing benefits to communities. However, sometimes welfare (such as clothing, food or medicines for individuals) is a necessary steppingstone to empowerment. Your donation will be used where it is most needed unless you include a comment in the space provided.



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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