



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

NOVEMBER 2022

ANGOLA

Medical Assistance

The health centre is run by the OLSH community. Sr Mary Rabu works in the clinic with the director and 2 nurses who are from the government. The clinic is open from Mondays to Fridays, although Fridays are dedicated to pregnant women who are vulnerable. Recent statistics showed that 6 out of 10 pregnant women are HIV positive, malnourished and severely anaemic.

Although medicines are provided by the government and the Diocese, these are often not enough. The funding we received from DOLSH OAF allowed us to provide a continuous supply of medicines to women and children who are at great risk. We were able to help 20 HIV positive patients with medicines and food, unfortunately, five of them aged between 16 and 17 have since died. We also assisted 120 patients with malaria and anaemia, most of whom are children and women. We provide free medicines to the poor and we also assist those who come into the clinic whenever we received supplies from the government, perhaps once or twice a year.



Food and Personal Needs of the Poor During Covid 19 Pandemic

This project benefitted the abandoned elderly, orphaned children, the malnourished and HIV patients who need food assistance.

The project has also encouraged the parish legionaries to get involved by helping the elderly who cannot walk anymore. They deliver and cook food for them, collect firewood and fetch water for them. When the project ended, the legionaries still continued to support the elderly by sharing whatever resources they had. The children and the youth continue to come on a regular basis to the Mission for food and always try to do some work to help the Sisters.

The COVID-19 pandemic has called for deep faith that everything will be all right. We now know that the pandemic is not a hindrance to being charitable or to extending help to those in need. Our great thanks go to all the donors of OLSH OSA as we were able to help and overcome the challenges to help those in need.



Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible

Sr Susan Ilustrisimo

SOUTH SUDAN

Greetings from what seems to be the centre of a small oasis in the heart of South Sudan. Lakes State, our home State, has been abundantly blessed with peace for the last many months since President Salva Kiir's appointment of a fair but authoritative Governor to head the State. The many previous gun shots at night are silenced; people have freedom to move whenever and to wherever there is need or wish. Sadly, in this country this freedom of movement was not common.

Peace has made it possible for farmers to extend gardens and plant extensively. Those who planted with the first rains are now harvesting their ground nuts. Smiles are on many faces! It's wonderful to see young boys with a spring in their steps carrying their local sugar cane to market. Our local Mapuordit market has grown and expanded to the benefit of all. Lorries were able to move freely with food and a great variety of market goods. The Rumbek market appears to be overflowing with trade wares extending right to the footpaths.

Our three schools are fully operational: the Nursery, Primary and Secondary. Several new teachers have enriched our teaching staff; a university graduate from the Juba University now heads the Primary school; a university lecturer from the Juba University is teaching Maths in the Secondary school. These are welcome developments.

The Mapuordit women have new opportunities to address their family traumas through monthly organised gatherings. Sr. Virginia's return to Mapuordit has enabled professional and compassionate listening and transformational responses to the many issues of over-burdened, weary mothers often left alone with all family burdens, due to polygamy. Sr. Wendy's return is also a welcome enrichment to our community and to the many elderly poor and disabled ladies. Sr. Bernadette is totally committed to the Nursery; her many small protégées are introduced early to training and character building. A wonderful centre of early formation! Sr. Rita still occupies herself with provision of fresh clean water, working with a very skilled and reputable driller; agriculture with skills acquisition for intensive cropping also features strongly among the many women's groups. A Satellite school scored third place in Lakes State in last year's Primary 8 National exams. Sr. Rita remains grateful for continued good health enabling involvement with the growth and development of Mapuordit and its people.



Various Improvement Projects Funded: Teacher's Accommodation, Repairs in the Primary School and Improvements in the Staff Room

We remain forever grateful to all benefactors for your generous support to our various outreach efforts; thank you for feeding the hundreds of literally hungry elderly, children, and disabled. Your generosity directly reaches the many genuine personal, desperate situations we encounter daily. Thank you indeed!

Forever grateful,
Srs Wendy, Bernadette, Virginia and Rita



The many people helped in the various projects in South Sudan – student taking mechanic training, group of the poor awaiting weekly food distribution, student taking computer training, children fitting their school uniforms and student taking BA Education

SOUTH AFRICA

Holy Family Care Centre

Holy Family Care Centre welcomes children who come to us needing love and care. We are registered for 75 children but we are yet to receive from the government the funding for the extra 5 places allocated.

In the beginning of 2022, due to the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, all children were required to attend the schools again. The children enjoyed returning to school and being with their friends.



Children returning Home from School

This year, we were made aware of an urgent issue in our kitchen. The kitchen structures were old, and rotting had occurred due to water leakages, white ants, and cockroach infestation. Infection control, food handling and pest control is of utmost importance for the health and safety of the children, so the work became a priority. We used some of the funds to cover a third of the cost to repair the kitchen

The Outreach Program is a vital link for our discharged children and support is provided by means of food parcels, clothing, school uniforms and stationery, sponsorship for higher education fees and transport costs. This program has helped many children. Some families reunited with older children are not entitled to a government child grant, thus the regular food assistance through Outreach has also helped in keeping the family together.



A girl will complete her further studies this year and hopefully will gain employment to support her family. There are three children who left Holy Family Care Centre several years ago who reached out and made contact recently as their circumstances have changed and they needed support and advice. It reflects well that these children have someone and somewhere to turn to and we have the facility to continue the relationship when needed.

Sr Sally Duigan



Sr Sally Duigan (Director of the home) and a Baby from HFCC

With these changes, home-schooling tutors are no longer required, we only have our overseas volunteer teacher and a tutor who help the children with their homework. Our current seamstress who has worked with us for over 10 years will be retiring and one staff member has attended sewing classes in preparation to take over this role. Two staff members were also able to attend external Capacity Building Education courses.



Rotten Cupboards are replaced with open benches plus walls and floors are tiled

Would you like to make a Bequest in your Will to the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund?



Orphans Receiving Food Parcel

Two possible ways you can make a significant difference to the lives of people in need in the areas where the Sisters work:

- By including the work of the Fund in your Will. We would gladly advise your solicitor of the specific terms of the bequest. Alternatively, Michael O'Dea AM of Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers would be happy to advise you at no cost. He may be contacted directly on **(02) 9291 7104**.
- By requesting mourners at your loved one's funeral to donate to the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund in lieu of flowers.

PHILIPPINES

Community Centre for Surigao



The Sisters used to rent a place for their community programs in Surigao, but the place was damaged by an earthquake that hit Surigao. Due to this need, a funding application was submitted to the Overseas Aid Fund to build a centre. We thank you for all your support as the new centre named Centre of Hope is now complete.

The centre is staffed by the Sisters, teachers and volunteers. Some local men and women are also employed by the Centre. It is used as a classroom for a literacy program for adults and a tutorial program for school children. Feeding and livelihood training, meetings for the youth and other disadvantaged groups are also held in the centre. There are also livelihood classes for women to help them earn an income as some would go begging to survive. They are also often taken advantage of by others due to poverty and their lack of education.

Sr Cathy Biyo

Thank You, from the Victims of Typhoon Odette

The Badjoa are very poor people who live over the ocean with homes raised on stilts, most of which had been destroyed by Typhoon Odette. I visited several places and the people spoke of terrifying stories of the sound of the wind howling, iron roofing being ripped from their homes, and their boats being splintered into unrecognisable masses.

We spent days totally immersed in the lives of the victims of Odette. All the stories were similar, recalling heartache, feeling alone and forgotten and in all cases, just when they felt they had not been seen or heard, the Sisters responded with practical assistance of food, plywood, nails, tools, iron sheeting but above all prayers, love, compassion and hope. I felt a sense of awe at what our Sisters had been able to achieve. I was especially heartened when the local people who were very poor said: they had felt 'unseen' by their own government and the people around them and it was the DOLSH who first responded to their silent cries. These poor ones welcomed us, fed us and were so grateful for our help. It was a very humbling experience and one which I am deeply grateful for.

Sr Philippa Murphy



ONLINE DONATIONS can be made through the OLSH Australia website www.olshaustralia.org.au/overseasaid

BANK TRANSFER to DOLSH Overseas Aid Fund

BSB number: 062239

Account number: 10085021

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible

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