



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

NOVEMBER 2021

VIETNAM

Scholarship Program and English Centre

The Vietnamese government is requiring English proficiency from students. Some children whose parents are handicapped cannot afford to study in an English Centre. In 2020, we began a scholarship program and an English tutorial for this group of children. This program is in collaboration with the Parish program in Lang Son Church. We teach 20 students from grade 1 to 5 every Saturday. We also have volunteer teachers and young professionals who teach English and help in classroom management.



A scholar helping another student in the English tutorial class.



We visit our scholars in their homes to get to know their families more. For this family (pictured), we have two scholars, one of them, Tram, stopped coming to class. When we visited the family, we found out that the mother died this year. Hence, Tram, who is 10 years old, stays home to cook and take care of her brothers and sisters, while their father is working. The Sisters are now closely watching Tram and her family and the community

has extended some support and assistance to them.

The scholarship program creates a sense of hope in the hearts of the children. It is now possible for them to have a brighter future. They feel lucky and blessed to have the opportunity to be part of the scholarship program.

We sincerely thank all the donors for supporting this project.

Sr Cherry Villegas

KIRIBATI

Empowerment of Women

This ongoing project is very much needed in Kiribati as it provides women from very poor families the opportunity to get a qualification and a job. The pandemic affected their studies, but they have adjusted to it, as the university courses are now being done online. Their families are very supportive of them by trying to keep the noise and disturbances to a minimum while they are studying,



Students sharing their computer

Previous beneficiaries of this project now have stable jobs, help their families and give back to the community.

Sr Kateia Teanako

Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible



SOUTH AFRICA

Holy Family Care Centre

Babies Babies Babies!!!!

We have 10 beautiful babies in our nursery which gives us lots of work and lots of joy. Hellen, our night carer and Elizabeth, our day carer are kept busy feeding, bathing, changing nappies and having plenty of cuddles and playtime. The nursery is a hub for visitors – our older children and staff love calling in there to nurse and cuddle the babies. The more of this the better, for the baby's growth and development.

Sometimes things happen unexpectedly, and It was with great sadness that we experienced an unexplained death of a healthy 8-week-old baby boy last month.

Nkateko came to us from the local hospital at only 9 days old. His mother had given him up for

adoption. On this particular morning at around 3am his carer found him unresponsive in his cot. She called for help and Carmel (our wonderful Australian volunteer) tried to resuscitate him. Our manager, Theo, and Carmel took the little baby to the local hospital where he was pronounced dead. His death was attributed to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). It was devastating for us all, particularly for his carer who looks after our 10 babies at night-time and for the staff who assisted at the time.

Infants in South Africa are more likely to die from infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis and HIV and fatal injuries due to drownings, car accidents and fires. The statistical data available in 2017 of SIDS indicated a rate of 1.06 deaths per 1000 live births for white babies, but only 0.3 deaths per thousand for African infants. This means that most South African babies are less at risk of SIDS despite the common practice in South Africa and other African counties where babies do not have their own room and normally sleep with their mothers. In general, African countries report a lower incident rate of SIDS compared to the Western world. Our little one was sleeping in his own cot, and we followed the recommended guidelines such as positioning, type of coverings and temperature control recommended by "The Child Safe" campaign in South Africa. Nkateko was laid to rest, with his mother and social workers present. It was a very sad time for us at Holy family. Our carer has been able to receive counselling.



Nkateko

Sr Sally Duigan

Bakhita Outreach Program

The program is committed to supporting vulnerable and orphaned children – most of whom were residents of Bakhita Village. The girls, as well as their grannies or whoever they were living with are visited on a regular basis to support and check their living conditions. Food parcels and other basic needs were provided. The girls are all attending school and they are living in safe homes.

To ensure the educational progress of each child, we coordinate with the class teacher, check on their school participation, and find out which areas or



subject each child is struggling with and needs to be improved. Collecting the school reports each term and going through them with the child helps to improve their education. Home learning was started and support is given to their carers to ensure that progress of the studies will not be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The girls' physical, social and emotional health is also monitored. We liaise with the social workers and the class teachers to ensure the girls' health and safety.

Sr. Amaka



SOUTH SUDAN

Emergency Rations

Funds from this project supply emergency rations to approximately 250 destitute persons, many are lepers, some are blind or lame, some abandoned or homeless and most are elderly and fairly immobile. This project provides sufficient basic food rations, soap, mosquito nets and at times blankets which raises the level of living from destitution to “poverty” level.

It provides the joy of a cup of sugared tea with energy biscuits; it provides for their coming together for distribution where these admirable women are able to socialise and carry home some food free of charge. Those who are able, contribute something toward the rations they receive by helping with some small tasks.

This project feeds the really neglected, the voiceless, the very poor. Those who were overlooked and neglected by the Government, food distributions network and other NGO institutions. The rations provided are support only; relatives are called on to support their destitute.



Vulnerable Ladies shelling groundnuts as payment for their water

Sr Rita Grunke & Sr Wendy Violet



Secondary Students with Principal on Morning Assembly

Education Resources

This program provides support to the Primary and Secondary schools in Mapuordit with minor contingency support to the Nursery school. Some salary and food support are made available for the Primary school as the teachers in the Primary are grossly underpaid by the Government.

The sharp decline in pupil registration in 2021 added many constraints on the budget prepared 6 months previously. Through much discussion and dialogue led by the Secondary Principal, the teachers agreed to some minimal cuts so that the budget can cover the examination fees and maintenance costs.

Our deep gratitude for the generous support to the OLSH ministries in South Sudan. I can't comprehend the generosity of the Australian people. They've suffered through so many crises, yet their generosity is not diminished. Blessings abundantly to all donors.



Junior Assembly at the Primary School

Sr Rita Grunke

*Wishing all our donors and your loved ones
a very happy and holy Christmas and a blessed new year.*

PHILIPPINES

Education for the 60 Disadvantaged Children Amidst the Pandemic

St. Alphonsus Catholic School (SACS)– Grade School Department in Lapu-lapu City, Cebu Philippines started the “Adopt-A-Scholar” program. Every year, this program supports sixty (60) learners/pupils enrolled in the public schools with a monthly allowance of ₱200 (Philippine money), equivalent to A\$6.00.

In the past, the SACS students donated a part of their allowance and shared this with their adopted scholars. However, with the pandemic, enrolment in SACS decreased and the classes were done by distance learning modalities that adversely affected the program. The funds from the Overseas Aid assisted in continuing the program in this difficult time. This is of great help to the adopted community especially to our adopted scholars as it helped sustain their education and some of their basic needs.

The monthly allowances of the adopted scholars were given from September to June (this coincides with the local school year). Aside from the allowance, the school continues to give assistance in small ways by giving school supplies at the beginning of the school and in December.

Sr Luisita O. Carreon



First Giving of allowance together with the goods (5 kilo rice) from our school and school supplies from our teachers.



Would you like to make a bequest in your will to OLSH Overseas Aid Fund?

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.

If you wish, donations can be made online through the OLSH Australia website

www.olshaustralia.org.au/overseasaid

or through this link:

<https://secure.donman.net.au/client/olsh/donate.aspx>

Donations of \$2 or more are tax- deductible.

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