



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

MAY 2024

SOUTH AFRICA

Nzhelele



Sr Rotee with the Care Givers

A grassroots project, guided by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, successfully continues in Nzhelele. In an area such as this where there are few jobs, sporadic service delivery and little government assistance, the local people identified challenges and as a community helped provide assistance where it was most needed.

Sr. Rotee Uriam helps with organisation, guidance and funding which provides the basis for this community to help themselves. Orphaned and vulnerable children receive housing, food and educational services. Children are visited monthly by local carers who monitor their health and wellbeing.



Peer Group Meeting and Games



Distribution of Food Parcels

Forming peer groups for those suffering from HIV, physical disabilities or other illnesses has helped provide emotional and experiential support to those in need. As part of healthy living goals, active members established gardens, a source of wholesome eating options and activity. The amazing worth of this project is that it is led and implemented by the community. Many participate and many benefit.

Holy Family Care Centre

Holy Family Care Centre has been able to continue to care for the children who come to us needing love and care. We are registered for 75 children.

The donors of the Overseas Aid Fund have been a loyal and consistent help to Holy Family Care Centre. The children

experience a much-improved quality of life through the kindness of our donors. We are so grateful to you all for continuing to help us provide a loving and safe home at Holy Family Care Centre.



Creche children learning skills



Some Children are off to School

Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible

Sr. Sally Duigan

SOUTH SUDAN

Satellite Schools



Atriu Satellite School in AluakLuak Payam

The Mapourdit Parish is extensive in area; while the “mission” is central – there is a need to move to the peripheries to include education. There are many scattered children without access to the Mission centre – hence Satellite schools. With more than 4000 children, whom people fondly refer to as “bush” children. The Satellite schools allow them to



Warakan Satellite School in AluakLuak Payam

acquire basic numeracy and literacy skills.

This project aims to provide essential learning such as textbooks, basic materials such as exercise books, chalk, blackboards and some sporting materials. In impoverished situations, learning is curtailed by their absence. Student learning has continued due to this support.



Sorting New Textbooks for the Schools

Efforts are also made to assist “volunteer” teachers - all of whom have passed Senior 4. Intermittently, depending on weather, roads and personnel available, teachers are brought to Mapourdit for a more intensive Inservice. At times, teachers from Mapourdit visit the Satellite schools for local Inservice.

From our current 19 Satellite schools much is accomplished. Outcomes are pleasing: two of our three Agricultural Officers who recently graduated are products of Satellite Schools. They entered High School in Mapourdit, graduated and passed entry exams into Ag College in Uganda. Three Clinical Officers now employed in the Hospital at Mapourdit are products of Satellite schools. There are many more instances of similar cases.

Sr Rita Grunke

Disability Support

In and around Mapuordit there are many disabled and really poor people unable to afford the upkeep and maintenance of their bicycles and wheelchairs that they currently use and need.



Some of the wheelchairs bought for Disability Support

Three new bicycles were purchased for the Leader of the Women’s group, the logistics person at the Nursery school and for another staff member of the community. All three have commitments in areas located some distance from their homes in Mapuordit. Four second-hand bicycles were bought for needy persons: one for a really poor lady to allow her to cover daily distances to and from her garden; one for a disabled policeman; one for the water repair person to cover his distances; and lastly for a married female attending secondary school, to enable her to continue her studies. Repair requests for tyres, inner tubes, chains and seat covers are frequent



Elizabeth says thanks for her bike

and we assist, but avoid creating dependencies.

Sr Rita Grunke and Sr Wendy Violet

ANGOLA

Income Generating Project in Agriculture

Internato is a girls' boarding school that opened in 2006. The girls are children of refugees who live in distant communities with no opportunities to go to school. The boarding school relies on donations to feed and provide for the needs of 30 girls. Before this project, we applied twice for food assistance from DOLSH Overseas Aid.

Sadly, the refugees got used to receiving everything they needed in the refugee camps from NGOs and continued this habit when they returned to Angola. These realities moved us to invest in parents' formation. We encountered some difficulties at first, but then some parents started to help their children by giving a kilo of cassava or a dollar each month. Others help us in cultivating our backyard garden and we are very grateful.



In 2023, the traditional leader granted us the use of 4 hectares of land. Then the funds from this project were used to clear and prepare the land for farming. We started cultivating corn, cassava, soya beans, beans and peanuts for food. The parents agreed to work on the farm for 2 hours a week and we also hired 10 people to work full-time. Through the help of the parents and some paid workers, we implemented the project. We made sure that the parents worked on a schedule and that there would be 7 people working on the farm, including the workers, every day, except on Sundays.

We prepared the land in April and planted it in November, the beginning of our rainy season. After 4 months, we were able to harvest the leaves of the cassava. We also have a vegetable garden near the river which we rely on so much for our daily food like veggies, tomatoes and onions, and we sell some to pay for our workers on the farm. Here, farmers rely so much on the rain and cultivate their land manually. Unfortunately, although it is the rainy season, it was dry which affected this year's harvest. Instead of harvesting 50 sacks of corn we only got 25 sacks which is just enough for food until the next harvest. We are still very grateful because we at least have seeds for the next plantation.



In the last 5 months since October, we started generating income from the vegetable garden which we used to pay the 10 workers on the farm. Probably in the future, we can apply for funding for a small tractor and irrigation system to improve production. At this time, they are cultivating the land manually. This year we will rely on our income and maybe rent a tractor to prepare the land. Thank you very much for helping us!

Sr Susan Ilustrisimo

Would you like to make a Bequest in your Will to the 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 can 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

Our Synodal Journey in Responding to “Climate Emergency”

San Roque Parish Eco-Bricks Project 2023 in Cordova, Cebu, Philippines was initiated by the Chevalier Family Lay Associates (CFLA) with the theme “*One Heart in Caring Our Common Home.*” CFLA undertakes Eco-Bricks Advocacy to encourage upcycling PET bottles stuffed with single-use plastic to create something essential and useful to the community especially to lessen our problem with plastic. Hand in hand the different schools and all mandated organizations in the locality help in producing eco-ricks. This is our synodal journey in responding to the “**climate emergency.**”

Before, our garden area was a place to store garbage, but our communal effort created a difference....



Dissemination of Information to different schools and all mandated organizations



The collected Eco-Bricks and preparation to form eco-bricks garden



The Eco-Bricks Garden Ready for Planting



After 2 months we have an Eco-Bricks Vegetable Garden

On the back portion of the garden was a dumped area... that shifted into a beautiful place to rest and relax.....



I have learned the essence of open-mindedness with a heart, and of true service to heal the hurts of the past, despite all odds. This is developed gradually through a profound belief in God’s love.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Everywhere Loved, now and forever!

Mrs. Aida Zafra - Chevalier Family Lay Associates

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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TO DONATE**

