



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

NOVEMBER 2025

SOUTH AFRICA

Bakhita Program: A Journey of Hope and Opportunity



Though Bakhita Village closed in 2017, its mission lives on through the dedicated Outreach team. By visiting girls placed with guardian families, the team continues to offer educational guidance, material support and emotional care. These visits are especially crucial during school breaks, when many girls lack consistent support at home due to poverty and hardship within their guardian families.

Thanks to the steadfast support of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Overseas Aid Fund and Bakhita Charities, the team is able to provide essential goods, transport, pocket money, school materials and mentorship. Their presence reminds the girls that they are not alone and that someone cares.



Many girls have reached significant milestones:



some have completed matric, some are earning degrees, others have found jobs or become professionals like social workers and doctors.

Even those still on the journey are striving with determination, inspired by the encouragement they receive. Their progress is a testament to the power of sustained love, faith and opportunity.

Get Involved - Be Part of Her Journey

Every step these girls take toward a brighter future is made possible by a community that cares. Whether through volunteering, donations or simply spreading the word, your support helps extend the promise of education, dignity and hope. Let us continue walking alongside them and show that even in the most remote corners, love and opportunity can reach far.



St Josephine Bakhita

Sr Gabrielle Moseka

Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible

SOUTH SUDAN

The land and people that teach me more about how to love



I began my journey in South Sudan in 2005 as an East Timorese. I stayed with my Australian sisters for three months in Mapuordit to learn English from them. After seven (7) years, I was asked to go to the mission in Cameroon. Then, after 10 years I was sent again to South Sudan. I was given a very privileged position of standing on the shoulders of my great Australian sisters, as I benefited from all the work they did. They have been in South Sudan for 3 decades and journeyed with the people of Mapuordit through war, drought, starvation and much personal suffering. They help with education, health, food, housing and their other needs, allowing them to live with hope and dignity.



We are so grateful for your continued support of the people of South Sudan. This country has been at war for 21 years. The majority of its people are very poor. Your support for the poor and the blind through the Emergency Ration Project has saved many lives. These are people who have no families or were left behind by relatives, as they cannot look after them. In Panamat, where people suffer from



leprosy, support is given for food and shelter. They also know that they can come to us if they need help, as they cannot get support from the government.



Through education, your support has made a lot of difference in people's lives. We were able to provide basic accommodation to disadvantaged students who live far away from Mapuordit and have no access to schools. Scholarships are granted to those who are less privileged to take courses

that will enable them to not just improve their lives but also serve their community. The Primary School, Secondary School and 20 Satellite Schools are supported in many ways, allowing children to have access to education and a pathway to a better life.



South Sudan is a polygamous society. Polygamy overburdens mothers as the father can be absent for months and sometimes years, making it difficult for mothers to cope. Culturally, having many children is a sign of wealth and is believed to be necessary for parental care in their old age. This has necessitated the establishment of the Women's Development and Support project which has helped a large percentage of mothers,



especially young mothers. These women continually live in a state of trauma due to an overly burdensome family life. The Group Therapy Sessions with professionals we put in place have encouraged women to openly discuss the issues of "too many children", loneliness and problems of raising children without the presence of the father. These meetings have been very transformative as they are gradually able to claim their dignity, self-importance, independence of thought and freedom of expression.



The agricultural training program developed in this project has helped mothers learn how to look after the garden, allowing them to harvest their own produce. This has improved their health and family life, but also allowed them to have a form of independent cash on hand to support the education, feeding, clothing and housing of their children.



In South Sudan, there are many abandoned women in society due to HIV/AIDS. Some were left behind by relatives when their husbands died of the disease, while others were left by their husbands, who failed to take care of their families. Many of these women have lost their children due to starvation or disease. Some don't even have a house to live in. We also assist those with disability in the community by delivering food to

them and providing wheelchairs to give them a bit of independence.

Your support allowed us to have a motorbike and the service car regularly maintained. These vehicles allowed us to reach isolated places in Mapourdit, transport food and building materials, provide transport to the sick and disabled and manage the work we need to do.



We have a great team in Mapuordit, but without your help, we are nothing. We salute and honour your good heart.

Sr Jeviana De Araujo

FUNDS DISBURSED IN 2024			
Angola	\$31,731.20	Kiribati	\$57,600.00
Papua New Guinea	\$31,118.59	Philippines	\$41,966.36
South Africa	\$107,200.00	South Sudan	\$258,020.61
Tonga	\$8,000.00	Vietnam	\$16,200.00
TOTAL \$551,837.76			

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.

Your generous support of the mission continues to make a difference in the lives of our many vulnerable brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you for all you do.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year!



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Assistance to Disadvantaged Students



Nalu Fode Centre is a school situated along the coast of Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea. The Centre was set up to assist students who are unable to complete their education from Grades 7-12 to give them the opportunity to continue their learning through to colleges and universities.

Here, we help disadvantaged students who cannot make it to the normal systemic schools or secondary schools. If the students do not get good marks in Grade 8, they cannot continue into Grade

9. It is the same when they are in Grade 10; having good marks will let them continue to Grade 11. These disadvantaged students come to the Centre to improve their marks so they can continue their education.

However, the Centre has big financial constraints as the Government does not give any subsidy to operate like all normal systemic schools. The Diocese of Aitape, although supportive, is unable to assist financially. We depend entirely on the students to pay their fees, but most of the students who come here do not even have enough money to pay for one subject, which



stands at K290.00 (AUD\$104). They must complete 6 subjects to be certified, like the rest of the students in the normal systemic schools. With 6 subjects, they should be paying K1740 (AUD\$624), which is a huge amount. Most of the parents are very simple village farmers who earn a regular fortnight salary and do not have that kind of money.

When we submitted our application, we expected to have 24 Grade 12 students. This has doubled to 48 students, some of whom are from the Nuku and Lumi, which are outside Aitape. More Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 students have been coming; this outcome is overwhelming. Seeing the progress of students performing and more students coming in to enrol is very encouraging. The 12 Tutors were also very happy with their small incentives of K30.00 (AUD\$11) per lesson.

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We submitted an application to the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Overseas Aid Fund, which was approved. These funds assisted us in a very big way. Through this funding, 48 Grade 12 students completed their long overdue assignments. A total of six Grade 11 students



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

**SCAN
QR CODE
TO DONATE**



Sr Mary Kanatabu