



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

MAY 2018

PHILIPPINES



Tutorial Program facilitated by the Scholars in Matang tubig

The Daughters of OLSH carried out emergency relief work after super typhoon Yolanda (Halyan) in 2013, the subsequent storm surges ravaged much of the island of Leyte and caused the death of many citizens. Relief work truly helped the people get back on their feet and restore their community, for which they are very grateful. Sisters are involved in a variety of ministries, including; education, healthcare and pastoral care. The Scholarship Program instituted in the Philippines has been successful, two students share their stories below. Sr Che



Parenting Session with mothers

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - Words of gratitude from our graduates



Reymart 26; I studied a Bachelor of Elementary Education while being a single parent to my seven year old daughter. I would like to say thank you to the Congregation of the Daughters of OLSH and the Overseas Aid Fund. It was a privilege to participate in the scholarship program. I would not have been able to realise my goal and finish my course without the financial support. I'm very glad and so thankful to God that he gave this wonderful blessing to me. I hope that more aspiring students can be helped through this Scholarship Program.



Jocelyn 19; In the seven years since beginning the Scholarship Program I have learned a lot, including how to do good things for others and be connected to God. The activities helped me gain confidence, I am now able to teach children and share my knowledge. I love teaching, it has enhanced my communication skills. I have experienced different outreach programs and now realise all people have a right to dream. The Overseas Aid Fund assistance has opened doors, not only for me but also for my family. With God, everything is possible. Thank you.

MARIGONDON CLINIC



Through the financial support of the DOLSH Overseas Aid Fund the Medical and Lying-in Clinic in Marigondon, Lapu-Lapu City, serves poor patients from four Barangays on the island of Mactan. The clinic opens three times weekly with one volunteer doctor. During 2017 a total of 1,695 patients came to our clinic with different illnesses and conditions, mostly upper respiratory tract infections. Pre-natal examinations (pictured left with Sr Marivic), delivery and post-natal checks are available. There were also critical patients who needed to be referred to the Government hospital but required support from us for their medications. The DOLSH Overseas Aid Fund also helped us run extension programs: giving of welfare packages, the visitation of the sick and the feeding program for undernourished children (pictured right). Sr Marivic



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SOUTH AFRICA

BAKHITA VILLAGE: Educate a girl – Educate a family

The name Bakhita means 'fortunate' and the girls who become part of our project draw inspiration from the resilience of St Bakhita as they come to know her story. St Bakhita was born in Sudan and at a young age she was kidnapped and sold as a slave, she endured much suffering.

Through Bakhita Village we aim to offer young orphaned and vulnerable girls, many of whom are trapped in a cycle of poverty, the opportunity for an education. This year we have restructured Bakhita and the primary school girls are now in the care of their grannies or relatives. We keep in touch with the girls and their families through our Outreach Program. There are now nine Bakhita girls in St Brendan's High School. We meet with them regularly to support them with their studies. Seven girls are currently in the Bakhita Tertiary Education Program and studying various courses. A number of girls have completed their studies, they are now helping their siblings and making their way in the world. Educate a girl and indeed you educate a family!



Sr Rotee and Bakhita girls enjoy lunch together

HOLY FAMILY CARE CENTRE – A haven of hope!



Two of the children with Sr Sally

During the Easter holidays, Holy Family Care Centre admitted two more children – a gorgeous little thirteen month old girl and her three year old brother. She is suffering from severe malnutrition and weighs only 5kg, her brother has been diagnosed with HIV/Aids and was not on any treatment. The staff and children have welcomed these little ones into our home and we hope that given loving care, a special nutritional program and medicines that the two children will begin to thrive. Holy Family continues to admit and care for vulnerable and sick children, with the individual circumstances of children being as varied as they are tragic. We have a ten year old boy who was living under a bridge with his homeless mother, for example. Many children and babies are neglected through poverty, maternal illnesses, addiction and being orphaned. At the Holy Family Care Centre we are deeply grateful for the ongoing financial support of the Overseas Aid Fund donors, which enables us to continue to love and provide the best care we can to every child who comes to us. We now have 71 children in residence, with Sr Jeanne teaching children with special needs (pictured right). Sr Sally



KURISANANI, TZANEEN – We help each other to grow

A three day workshop for Kurisanani OVC Coordinators and Care Workers took place recently at Ave Maria Pastoral Centre. Thirty five carers attended and participated with openness and enthusiasm in sharing their experiences and ways to improve the service they offer to the OVC's. Our projects are spread throughout the large Diocese of Tzaneen, with many participants meeting for the first time, giving an opportunity to bond and learn from each other. The importance of networking was emphasised and they were grateful for new ideas and ways of improving their performance. Sr Helen

THE AMETUR PROJECT, TZANEEN



The Ametur Project is run from DOLSH Convent in Tzaneen. Sr Helen and Sr Christine have many orphaned and vulnerable families and unemployed youth on their books. Usually a home visit and some assistance is provided, according to the difficulties being faced. Several young people are being sponsored to complete study or skills training in the hope that they will then find employment. Some families are still in need of help with living conditions. The aim is to always try to give people a chance to become independent and live with dignity. Sr Helen

UPDATE FROM NZHELELE – Sacred Heart Mission

The Orphan and Vulnerable Children's Program (OVC) run by DOLSH Outreach in Nzhelele is made up of local carers who visit homes and gather the children for after school care activities and care support. There are currently twelve centres in the program and over two hundred school children in attendance. Carers meet monthly to report and share concerns about those who need advocacy, health checks, nutritional supplements or intervention by social workers- a holistic approach to a child's well-being. Sr Clothilde and Sr Christine are part of the management team working alongside Justice, the co-ordinator and Thiwela, the administration officer. They supervise the grass roots operation of the project and have shown great strength of character, dedication and generosity in carrying the daily challenges of this ministry. Sr Christine



SOUTH SUDAN

MAPUORDIT CENTRE – for distant secondary girls

The DOLSH Sisters are blest to be part of the Mapuordit Parish in South Sudan. This Parish is the further most southern Parish of the thirteen constituting the Diocese of Rumbek. The location is significant in that it geographically borders two tribes. Traditionally the pastoralist tribe clashes with the agriculturalist tribe. These clashes can be quite frequent and often severe, nearly always relating to cattle grazing on crops such as sorghum due to the shortage of grazing pastures.

In view of these frequently strained relationships much effort is directed towards peace building and peaceful co-existence between the parishioners. The Primary and Secondary schools welcome all students, some are quiet and shy. Staff members in both schools are sensitively aware and take care to avoid bullying from other students.



Sr Rita with boarders at Mapuordit Centre

The DOLSH Sisters have established a small residential compound for female students who are disadvantaged by both poverty and distance. They now have a boarding facility which enables them to access a secondary education. Over the past four years there have been fifteen female students in residence. There were three room/dormitories which each housed four students. Numbers grew, so five students slept comfortably in each room. However, this year as confidence in our peace building effort grows, the number has increased to twenty-four. To deny female students a Secondary Education in South Sudan is not part of our ethos. Repairs and extensions will help us cope with the additional numbers.

Don't abandon South Sudan – Pope Francis



School children in Jur area

An ecumenical group led by Bishop Paride Taban, recently visited Pope Francis pleading for the presence of all churches in the country to continue. They are currently the only effective bodies maintaining solid educational services, teacher training and school administration. Health care training is also a major ministry. With growing emphasis on agriculture, which combats hunger and dependency on handouts, we are proud to be part of this effort. Norwegian Peoples Aid brought sixty women to our fully irrigated garden for an in-service training on small scale vegetable production. A special **thank you** to our donors for providing this garden and funding the training of agricultural officers.

Sr Marife, our Superior General, and Sr Merle recently visited, they are keen to maintain and strengthen the DOLSH presence in South Sudan. The current Commissioner is also supportive of our efforts in Mapuordit.

Sr Wendy has transformed the Primary school through staff changes, constant supervision and close work with management. Lack

of teacher pay is demoralising but among the P8 graduating classes, nationwide, the school exam results were outstanding. Students scored in the high 80s and 90s. This year the Acting Principal of the Secondary school grossly over enrolled in almost all classes as so many want an education. We thought the days of sixty per class were gone but some schools have up to eighty in a class!

Thank you too, to DOLSH Overseas Aid Fund for your provision of a bore hole to a very poor community. I have a growing admiration and gratitude to all our benefactors for your continued generosity to the mission of South Sudan. I trust you have faith in us, as the dispensers of your contributions, all made with selflessness and compassion for those less fortunate. Sr Rita



School children from Mekerri in Jur

KIRIBATI SEA WALL PROJECTS



Families and communities are continuing to work on building sea walls to protect family homes from the rising sea levels. The family here at Betio (pictured left) is really suffering due to the sea level rising and the water coming right up to their house at times of king tides. The people of The Banraeaba and Abarao Villages (pictured lower left) have started to build their wall to safe guard their dwellings from the sea water. In the pictures of the completed sections of the sea wall (right) you can see the family already



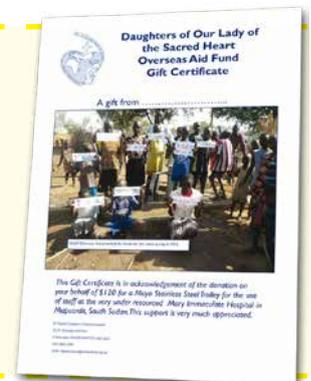
had a local sea wall built from rock. They cut the rocks on the ocean side and piled them on top of each other. However, during high tide they faced a big problem; the debris washed onto their home. They raised the seawall by 1.5 metres. Now they do not experience the same problem during high tide. Thank you to DOLSH Overseas Aid for helping the people of Kiribati. By providing funds to buy the materials needed to build the sea walls people are able to stay in their homes. Sr Kateia

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Gift Certificates are available for those who wish to use their donation as a gift for others.

Use a form printable from the website or, alternatively, contact DOLSH Overseas Aid Fund on 02 9663 3599.

Gift Certificates can be for any amount and any region.



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

Regularly we receive applications that far exceed the money we have available, and a bequest is a chance for you to do great things. Although you will not be here personally you will still be able to make a real difference.

If you would like to include the work of our Mission in your will, we will gladly advise your solicitor of the specific terms of the bequest. Alternately, Michael O'Dea AM of Carroll and O'Dea Lawyers, would be happy to advise you at no cost. He may be contacted directly at 02 9291 7104.

Or would you like to request mourners at your loved one's funeral to donate to DOLSH Overseas Aid Fund in lieu of flowers? Both these things can make a significant difference to the way we can help the people in need.

Online donations can now be made from the DOLSH Australia website.

Because of the high cost of postage, we are gradually moving away from sending hard copies of the KIT to our donors. Many have let us know their wish to have the newsletter sent to their email address.

If you would like to help us save postage, please send an email to the address below.