



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

MAY 2023

PHILIPPINES

Calamity Fund for the Victims of Typhoon Rai



Damage caused by Typhoon Rai



37 Boats were built by the carpenters, fishermen and their families from the resources received for this Project.

The poor people of Cebu and Surigao suffered massively from the devastation brought about by typhoon Rai. Almost 7 million people lost their homes and livelihood. The typhoon caused widespread flooding which affected hectares of land and damaged or destroyed thousands of houses. These people live near the coastal areas because of their livelihood being fisherfolks. They told us how they pulled their boats to safety, but the waves were too strong, and it still caused much destruction. They added that typhoon Rai was one of the worst they have experienced.

Thankfully they received some support from other organisations for their immediate needs for food, shelter, and clothing. However, the people also wanted to start the recovery process by rebuilding their means of livelihood. This project assisted the typhoon victims by providing them plywood, nails, boat engines, bamboo and other materials they needed to build their boats.

Sr Ruth S. Yburan



Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible

SOUTH AFRICA

Bakhita-Dwars River



Sr Rotee on Outreach visit with Ngwakwana and her mother in 2018.

It was 2015 when a very quiet and frightened young girl named Ngwakwana moved into Bakhita Village, a home for orphaned and vulnerable girls. The child's mother was quite ill with AIDS and was unable to care for her children. At Bakhita Village, the girls were lovingly cared for by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Ngwakwana thrived with the good care and attention that she received.

At the closing of Bakhita Village in 2017, Ngwakwana returned home to live with her mother who was receiving medication and her health was improving.



Sr Rotee and Ngwakana at St Brendan's 2023

The OLSH Sisters, with help from United States partners John and Maggie Williams, developed a plan and protocol for a Bakhita Outreach Team.

Currently, Sr. Gabrielle heads up the Outreach Team along with a local woman Dinah, who helps with language, culture and navigation. The Team visits each family monthly, arriving with a food parcel, any needed school supplies and emergency items. They visit the children and guardians, check their school progress and lend a hand with tutoring, including visits to the school.

As a result of loving care and attention, Ngwakwana was promoted to Grade 8 and is now a boarder at St. Brendan's. She and the other twenty-two former Bakhita Village girls are studying in St Brendan School and are all doing well. Sr. Rotee looks after all the girls and guides them toward positivity, kindness, and good manners, along with prayer and a good religious influence.

It is a miracle for this young lady that she has been given shelter, food, clothing, education and love. This quiet and frightened young Ngwakwana had a big smile for us today.

Holy Family Care Centre

On another joyful note, Holy Family Care Centre celebrated the 20th year of its foundation on 20th August 2022. We were delighted that Sr Dain Inglis was here for the special occasion. It was Sr Dain's vision and courage in collaboration with others, especially Dr Cecelia from the local hospital and the Tzaneen Diocese, that led to the establishment of this Centre for vulnerable children.

It is amazing to think of how many children have lived at the Centre and benefited from the love and care over the last 20 years. This has only been achieved through the assistance of so many, including all our donors and volunteers from overseas who have supported us financially. The home has developed and expanded to cater for more children and provide employment, training and mentoring for the local staff.

Sr Sally Duigan



SOUTH SUDAN

Fresh Water Provision



Drillers at Work

The driller worked until a plentiful fresh, clean water supply was found. Then the driller flushed out the borehole and the water started spouting into the air. They then installed a hand pump with a pedestal where water can be collected and poured into the people's jerry cans.

It is truly such a moving sight to witness the arrival of water in a village deprived of water for a lifetime.

The Imok community now has a hand pump with an excellent supply of fresh, clean, "good tasting" water, for which they are extremely grateful.

The women and young water carriers are indeed grateful to have a water source nearby and there are a lot of happy and grateful mothers and young girls. The girls will also have better opportunities for learning and for homework study time.

The community of Imok is an isolated village community in South Sudan that is very distant from any fresh water supply. For several years they have requested a hand pump for their household and family needs.

The village is home to 40 families and each household has about 6-10 people. They live at least an hour's walk from their nearest water point. In the wet the women collect water from a nearby swamp, but in the dry season they have to walk to the water point to get the water they need.

In this project, the driller was always on standby so that drilling could immediately begin once the weather allowed entry to the drilling site.



Once the project in establishing clean water supply is completed, the community takes full responsibility for the water point. The community also takes responsibility for collecting water tax that will be used to maintain the hand pump.

Sr Rita Grunke

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.



VIETNAM

Food and Medical Assistance

In Vietnamese culture, people always try to be independent, which is why even those over 70 years old still continue to work to survive. Unfortunately at that age, the income they generate is often not enough to meet their basic needs. In this project we were able to help 27 poor families by providing food and medical supplies



to the elderly or those who take care of their sick parents, children or family members. Below are some of the beneficiaries of this project.

Co Ty is a single mother in her 60's. She rents a room with her daughter who is mentally and physically challenged. Whenever she needs to go to work, she has no choice but to lock her daughter in the room. Close to the end of 2022 she lost her job, and this project gives her strength and hope to



face her challenges in life. She is very grateful for the assistance they receive.

Chu Hiep is a shoe repairman who sits in the corner of the street to repair shoes to earn a living. He is very thankful for the care and medical support extended to him.



Chi Nguyet is a mother of three, whose husband became very sick and died while she was pregnant with their youngest child. She is an accountant, but her income is not enough to support the needs of her family. She rents a room with her family and mother-in-law, who takes care of her baby when she works. For six months another organisation will be able to help her with nappies and milk needed by her infant child. She and her family are very happy to receive the much-needed assistance.

More than 10 people live in this house with *Cô Dung* who earns a living by selling coffee in front of her house.

This is *Kim Anh*. Her mother cried when she saw the catechists who visited with us because they are of the same age as her.



In this project we also have the youth group, students, parents and volunteers who deliver food supplies and join in home visitation. They were touched by the lives of these people. They were moved by the stories they heard from the elderly and the poor in their own community. This project helped them become aware of the need of others and to have a better understanding of their situation. They also know that their visits give joy and healing to the elderly which inspires them to be more involved in the community. They also begin to appreciate what they have and what their parents do for them. Thank you to all the donors for helping us in taking care of and bringing hope to the people in the community.

Sr Cherry Villegas

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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