



CREATING LEADERS:

Providing education and support to underprivileged children in Timor-Leste

Creating Leaders is an Order of Malta scholarship program in Timor-Leste. The Scholarships support underprivileged children to participate in formal continuing education.

Creating Leaders aims to assist children in the program, develop to their full potential and prepare them for taking a fundamental role in the leadership of their country, so that they become positive agents of change and progress.

Like many developing countries, Timor-Leste has high levels of poverty and low national human development. Education is an important vehicle to employment, independence, social and political empowerment and consequently, national development. However, a cycle of poverty often creates barriers to the children's participation in education. The Creating Leaders scholarship provides not only the payment of school fees, but other assistance and support to help overcome these barriers.

An example of a participation barrier can be transport to school. Walking kilometres to school, barefoot and in 35 degree heat can impact the children's performance and attendance. The scholarship provides the

children with their uniforms (including shoes) and transportation to and from school to remove this barrier.

Adequate food is another major cause for poor scholar performance. Children can be faced with a choice between finding work to pay for food or attending school. The scholarship therefore also covers the costs of school meals, where those costs are not met by the State.

How Timorese Childre experience disadvantage

24% - School absenteeism in children aging between 6 and 14 (2013)

54% - Children who have regularly started primary school (2011)

1167 - Children institutionalised in orphanages (2012)

33% - Children who started grade one and completed primary education (2010)

37.7% - Children under five who were underweight (2013)

4000+ children were looking for working opportunities (2010)

Currently there are 11 children in the Creating Leaders Scholarship program.

We have 9 children awaiting Creating Leaders Scholarships; however we do not currently have funding for these children.

Each child's scholarship costs \$70 a month

If you would like to sponsor a Creating Leaders Scholarship, please go to page 5.



The guiding principles of the scholarship are:

- * The children eligible to scholarship will come from **disadvantaged situations**.
- * Children who are nominated must demonstrate academic promise and enthusiasm for their studies.
- * The children awarded a scholarship are taught that it comes with a responsibility of **"service to those they can help"**, according to the fundamental ethos of the Order of Malta.
- * The children will be encouraged to enhance the **sense of belonging** to the family of the Order of Malta, through regular interaction with the members of the Order and other children who have been awarded Scholarships.
- * The children will be provided, through the organization of leisure time and extra-curricular activities, with **opportunities for developing and caring** the value of human brotherhood.
- * The children will be assisted and supported in the process of strengthen their self-esteem and confidence, in the **awareness of the diverse talents** they have been endowed by God.



VOLUNTEER BBQS CONTINUE AT TIERNEY HOUSE

Since 2006 volunteers have undertaken BBQs at Gorman House three times a week, to provide camaraderie and support to the residents. With Gorman House's temporary closure during its refurbishment and transition to a medical detoxification unit, BBQs during this period have moved to Tierney House.

Tierney House is part of St Vincent's Homeless Health Service and is a 12 bedded residential unit assisting the inner city homeless population to access health care. Tierney House provides a safe and stable environment whereby residents can access assessment, treatment and support from St Vincent's Hospital and local health and support services.

Gorman House is expected to re-open by the end of the year where the Order's BBQs will resume. However following the success and popularity of the BBQs at Tierney House, the NSW Branch is also hoping to continue the service there. The Branch would like to hear from volunteers who would be interested in participating in these BBQs

If you would like to become a BBQ volunteer, please email info@smom.org.au



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CATHOLIC ADVOCACY SERVICE IN NT

aimed to promote social justice by defending the sanctity of life and human

The Catholic Advocacy Service is offered by a group of volunteers and members of the Order of Malta in the NT, to the most vulnerable and marginalized sectors of our society.

Services

- * Administrative assistance to old, unwell, poorly educated and illiterate, by helping them to fill in forms that government agencies require.

- * Social support and encouragement through referral to a formalized network of governmental and Catholic Agencies, such as Centrelink and CatholicCare NT.

- * Submissions to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly on amendments to legislation and/or bill proposals impacting on the poor.

Mission

To live the Gospel by 'serving the Lord in the least of his brothers'.

Vision

The service is aimed to promote social justice by defending the sanctity of life and human dignity

Contact

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Save the date

- Lourdes Day Mass – Sydney**
Date: Saturday, 3 Dec 2016
Time: 10am
Location: St Mary's Cathedral
- Lourdes Day Mass – Adelaide**
Date: Saturday 11 Feb 2017
Location: St Francis Xavier's Cathedral
- Lourdes Day Mass – Melbourne**
Date: Saturday, 3 Dec 2016
Time: 10.30am
Location: St Patrick's Cathedral
- SA Branch Film Night**
Date: Sunday, 13 Nov
Time: 4.30pm
Location: Regal Theatre, Kensington Park
Please email info@smom.org.au for enquiries
- Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes**
Arrive: Friday 5 May 2017
Depart: Tuesday 9 May 2017
- Lourdes Day Mass – Adelaide**
Date: Saturday 11 Feb 2017
Location: St Francis Xavier's Cathedral
- Members Biennial General Assembly**
Arrive: Friday 23 Jun 2017
Depart: Sunday 25 Jun 2017
Hotel details and itinerary will be sent to Members directly

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IN THIS ISSUE - PROJECT UPDATES / UPCOMING EVENTS / INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A GARDEN OF MERCY IN ADELAIDE:

Helping the homeless and families in need

For some twenty years members of the Order in South Australia have supported the development the community garden on the site of the former Adelaide Gaol in inner Adelaide. The garden was formerly tended by prisoners until the gaol closed in 1988.

Founded in 1841 the Adelaide gaol was one of the last of the colonial prisons and the scene of many hangings prior to the abolition of capital punishment in SA in 1976. Mercy Sister, Sister Janet Mead and a dedicated group of helpers redeveloped the garden as part of the works of the Adelaide Day Centre for homeless persons. Over the intervening years the garden has grown and is now a source of fruit and vegetables and flowers for the luncheon program at its Moore Street premises in the Adelaide CBD. Food hampers are also delivered each week to many families and people in acute need.

The garden is cared for by clients of the Adelaide Day Centre and

at present there is a waiting list for volunteers. The Order has for many years provided funds for equipment for the garden. These funds have been supplemented by matching grants from the Macquarie Bank Foundation through the dedicated involvement of Confrere Nicholas Pyne. The latest contribution from the Order was two commercial lawnmowers.

The garden also houses farm animals. Recently a second garden was established in the suburb of Richmond.

The SA Branch's annual film afternoon has been the main source of funds to support the Adelaide Gaol garden.

The garden is officially named the Dame Roma Mitchell Garden. Dame Roma was a great friend of the Sisters of Mercy in Adelaide, a former Governor of SA, Australia's first woman Supreme Court Judge and was honoured by the Order of Malta in 1997.



If you would like to support the Garden of Mercy, you can make a donation on page 5.



COATS FOR THE HOMELESS THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

In 2016 the Australian Association has distributed a record 6,000 of our specially designed Coats for the Homeless.

Thank you to our donors who have supported this project and to our distribution partners who help us get the Coats to the people in need.

As this year's distribution draws to a close, planning for the 2017 distribution is already underway. We hope that we will be able to match this distribution again next winter. We will provide an update in the February 2017 Newsletter.

"As winter is now with us the coats will be distributed to our homeless and needy clients. Not only will they be kept warm and dry, they will also feel that someone cares enough to give them a coat to help them manage during the cold and rainy months ahead."

**Shirley Kelynack,
President of Waitara St Vincent de Paul**

"Coats for the Homeless' program provides an opportunity to help at a very fundamental level. Can you imagine living on the streets of Sydney in the cold without a coat to keep you warm? These coats offered protection against the cold and I like to believe they also gave people a feeling of hope and dignity."

**Joe Cashman,
CEO of CatholicCare Parramatta**

"Catalyst would like to thank the Order of Malta for enabling us to obtain the coats they had specifically designed for the homeless. George has successfully distributed the coats through the soup van to the regular users of the service. They have been received with appreciation from those doing it tough. The Order of Malta has also generously allowed us to put in an order for coats for Winter 2017. We would like to sincerely thank them for giving us the opportunity to bring a little more comfort and hope into the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves."

**Catalyst Foundation,
distribution in Victoria**

"I wanted to write to you to thank you for your very generous donation of coats for the homeless. The quality of these coats is exceptional and they have been so greatly appreciated by everyone who received them. We have given away approximately two thirds of the coats we received to people we have met in the Western Sydney community who are homeless or suffering others forms of disadvantage and deprivation. A number of these people were living on the streets and the coats were so helpful and practical to them as they faced this crisis."

One third of the coats are being held to distribute to Syrian refugees who we expect to arrive in our community in the next few weeks. This will be a wonderful, practical gift to them and another tangible sign that Australia is a community that cares about them."

**Major Paul Moulds AM, Director -
The Salvation Army Auburn District**



CatholicCare presentation to the Order in thanks for the Coats for the Homeless project



Coats distributed St Kilda in conjunction with Catalyst Foundation



Grateful Coats recipient in Alice Springs



Rough sleeper Shaun Farrell has an extra layer to keep him warm thanks to one of 100 coats gifted to the homeless in Auckland by the NSW branch of the Order of Malta.



WA Coats in Wellington Square in Perth, volunteers from Crossroads who work in association with St Patricks Community Support Centre

"We in the Auckland Diocese are most grateful for the generous gifts of 100 quality, weatherproof and warm coats which were gifted to us by the Sydney Members of the International Order of Malta."

The Coats are being distributed to the homeless people in our city by St Patrick's Cathedral, the James Liston Hostel and the Otara Parish."

**Bishop Patrick Dunn,
Bishop of Auckland**



Refugees receive medical care at our mobile medical clinic. Photo: Malteser International

IRAQ: LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES INDICATE IMMINENT ATTACK

"Our colleagues have observed increased refugee movement in the Mosul area. This indicates an imminent offensive to free the city of Mosul." says Sid Peruvemba, Programme Director of Malteser International. In order to help people, Malteser International is increasing medical emergency relief for refugees in Makhmur.

Since the Iraqi government began an offensive against ISIS to free the occupied city of Mosul and some of the surrounding villages have already been retaken, around 35,000 more people from this area have arrived in the independent region Kurdistan.

"Many of the internally displaced persons from ISIS-occupied areas have not been able to visit a doctor in years. Drinking water is contaminated, children have not been vaccinated and the hygiene conditions are disastrous. Above all, they lack clean drinking water and basic medical care." says Lisa Hilleke, who works for Malteser International in Erbil in the independent region Kurdistan in north Iraq.

The old camp and the newly constructed additional accommodation for refugees in Dibage in the Makhmur region are severely overcrowded. *"At one station around 10,000 people are sharing a space that was originally intended for 6,000 people. The situation is extremely difficult, even now, before the actual military offensive to liberate the city of Mosul has even begun."* says Hilleke. The Makhmur region, around 70 km from Erbil, is a first port of call for refugees from the Mosul region.

In order to improve the health of the refugees, Malteser International will first send a mobile clinic to the Makhmur area. Medical personnel will tend to acute, chronic, and in some cases long untreated, diseases and educate the public about contagious diseases.

If fighting increases, the Kurdish government is estimating that up to 500,000 more

refugees will flee to the north of Iraq in a short space of time. This is why Malteser International is planning to further deploy two mobile teams and ambulances in order to take on the first aid of refugees at the border to Kurdistan.

In Iraq, approximately 3.4 million people have now fled from their homes. More than half of them are living as refugees in the independent region Kurdistan. Here, the population has almost doubled in the last two years. The healthcare system in particular is completely overburdened.

Together with partners, Malteser International has been providing relief for refugees in camps in the regions of Erbil and Dohuk since August 2014.

Who are Malteser International?

Malteser International are the worldwide humanitarian relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta. Their mandate is to provide relief and recovery during and following conflicts and disasters. They are primarily active in the field of health, in which they have almost 60 years of continuous experience.

Christian values and humanitarian principles form the foundations of their work: bringing aid to people regardless of their religion, background, or political convictions through over 100 Projects in more than 20 countries.

Malteser International provide emergency relief in crises such as natural disasters, epidemics, or armed conflicts. During acute crises, teams from Malteser International are on the ground as soon as possible to provide emergency medical care, and ensure the supply of food and other essential aid materials as needed. From the very beginning, the rebuilding and recovery of the affected area is one of our essential considerations. Wherever possible, we also provide transitional aid and assistance to reduce the risk of future disasters - remaining present long-term at the scene of more protracted crises.

In 2015 Malteser International:

- ✳ Provided 230,000 with food, water, clothes and/or emergency shelter
- ✳ Medical Facilities around the world treated 970,000 patients
- ✳ 160,000 patients were given malaria treatment or prophylaxis

Regular updates from Malteser International are available from www.orderofmalta.org.au

COMMUNITY CARE VAN SERVICE SET TO EXPAND



In June 2015, the NSW Branch initiated a new activity to assist Sydney's homeless - The Community Care Van. The Van is driven by NSW Branch volunteers who also distribute seasonal items to those sleeping rough and a nurse from St Vincent's hospital, offers healthcare.

In the 18 months since the project started the response has been overwhelming and thanks to the generosity of donors, the items distributed by the volunteers have expanded beyond our Coats for the Homeless, to also include sunscreen and sun hats in Summer and water and hygiene packs year round.

- Community Care Van Distribution volumes in the last 12 months:
- ✳ 1,677 bottles of water
 - ✳ 507 Hygiene packs (since March 16)
 - ✳ 432 Coats for the Homeless
 - ✳ 361 Sunhats
 - ✳ 322 tubes of Sunscreen

Currently the Community Care Van service operates once a week, however thanks to the generous support of CITI CLSA, the van will soon be operating twice a week to service the homeless in the state.

If you have a current driving licence and would like to become a volunteer driver, please email info@smom.org.au

If you would like to make a donation to support the NSW Branch Community Care Van, you can do so on page 5.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CONFERENCE 'VARIETIES OF DIVERSITY'

The NSW Branch of the Order of Malta was a sponsor of the Religious Liberty Conference at the University of Notre Dame Australia's School of Law, in conjunction with its Annual Liberty Lecture held in August.

The Religious Liberty Conference examined the varieties of diversity — a mantra of the contemporary age often honoured more in the breach than the observance — and its impact on religion.

The Conference seeks to clarify the ways in which genuine diversity is under threat in the modern world in a way that will resonate with those concerned about civil liberties; whether or not they are themselves religious.

The conference featured highly regarded speakers and panelists from the academic world, the legal profession and religious life.

This year's lecture was presented by Iain Benson, Professor of Law at Notre Dame. Iain has also been appointed as an Extraordinary Professor of Law at the University of the Orange Free State in South Africa in recognition of his status as an international constitutional and human rights lawyer, and as a religious liberty expert.

EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH IN CENTRAL ITALY: Order of Malta's Relief Corps on the frontline of rescue operations



Seventy volunteers from the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps are currently deployed on a daily basis in the areas affected by the violent earthquake that struck central Italy at 3.36 am on 24 August, and that has left 293 dead and more than 2,000 homeless.

The Order of Malta's volunteers are providing support — by providing first aid, offering psychological assistance and distributing basic needs — to the many affected by the devastating quake. The team includes rescuers, doctors — 2 of whom are on duty for helicopter rescue — nurses and psychologists. The Order of Malta volunteers are in charge of the Sports Stadium in Amatrice, where up to 150 people whose houses were destroyed in the earthquake can take shelter. The Sports Stadium is also where a great amount of aid supplies are stored.

Distribution of medicines and health assistance is also offered to the population living in the isolated surrounding communities.

The Assessment and Quick Reaction Unit of the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps arrived early on Wednesday morning, just a few hours after the quake, in the area affected. In cooperation with the Italian Civil Protection, it immediately assessed areas suitable for tent cities. At the same time, the medical team worked late into the night in an emergency first-aid post set up in the sports field where various medevac (medical evacuation) transportations to hospitals outside the region were carried out by helicopter. A canine unit was also deployed by the Italian Relief Corps soon after the quake in the Amatrice centre- now razed to the ground- in order to rescue more people.

Volunteers of the Order of Malta are also assisting the population in Norcia, Umbria, affected by the earthquake.

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au for the latest updates of the Order's activities around the world

I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this form and returning it in the reply paid envelope provided.

I am happy for the Order to allocate my donation to where the need is greatest; **or**

Please accept a gift towards the:

- Creating Leadership Sponsorship (\$70 per month)
- Coats for the Homeless
- Garden of Mercy Adelaide
- NSW Community Care Van and Outreach

REMEMBER, GIFTS OF \$2 AND OVER ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

- Send me information about leaving the Order a bequest
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Name

Address

State Postcode Telephone

Please find enclosed a Cheque/ Money Order

(payable to 'The Order of Malta') for \$ or;

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency Once only Card Type Visa

Monthly MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date Cardholder name

Signature

Reminder: we will be finalising our production volumes for the 2017 Coats distribution in October. Please ensure all requests are with your local Branch before this time to avoid disappointment!