



## BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS FOR DISABLED YOUTH

Over the second weekend of September, 40 guests, carers and volunteers came for a three-day Order of Malta Camp for Disabled Youth at Camp Manyung, Mount Eliza in Victoria.

The Order of Malta Camps welcome guests aged 18 – 35 years old, with either a physical or mental disability. The activities are designed to challenge our guests, physically, emotionally and intellectually, in a safe, supportive and fun environment. Whilst it can be daunting for first time attendees, after participating in a camp they are often eager to attend more - not only for the activities on offer - but the friendships that they make with fellow guests and volunteers.

At the Mount Eliza camp, our guests included some familiar faces from our previous camps and five first time attendees, all of whom were warmly welcomed by our volunteers. Activities included a giant swing, archery and frisbee golf, as well as daily Masses with our

Spiritual Director Fr Paul Nulley and social activities, including the popular camp disco and a campfire evening.

One guest Vicky, who danced the night away at our disco commented that *"it was the best night [she has had] in a long time"*. Returning guest Matthew and newcomer Andrew have both already enquired about when and where our next camp will be as they are eager to return, and they are hopeful that they will see their new friends, guests and volunteers, there.

Whilst the focus of the camps is our guests, our youth volunteers play key roles in planning and running the camps, as they often get as much from the experience as those they are supporting. Camp organiser and volunteer, Anna Sammut, who has also volunteered at Order of Malta Youth Camps overseas explains *"Volunteering and organising the Youth Camps is such a rewarding experience for me. It allows me to bring together young people from different walks of life and from different parts of Australia for a weekend full of laughter, joy and happiness. I get to see first-hand how thankful the guests are to attend and the new skills they learn whilst attending the camp. I know that I have done my job well when our guests leave the camp with lifelong memories and friendships."*



**"Our guests are able to have these experiences because of the support the Order receives, I would like to thank everyone who supported this mission - you have made our guests very happy!"**  
Anna Sammut,  
Camp Organiser and Volunteer



The Order of Malta would like to continue this project with two further camps in 2023, however this is only if funding for the initiative can be secured. Each camp costs approximately \$30,000 and covers the activities, food and accommodation for our guests.

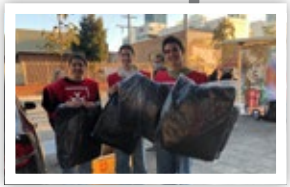
Donations to support the Order of Malta Camps for Disabled Youth can be made on page 5. Visit [orderofmalta.org.au](http://orderofmalta.org.au) for more images and videos from the camp.



### DARWIN

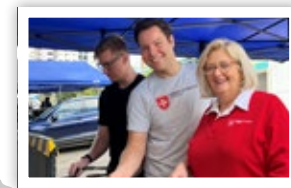
Each month, Order of Malta members and volunteers in the Northern Territory assist the Sisters of Charity to prepare and serve food to the disadvantaged and homeless.

The meals are delivered to several areas around Darwin where mainly Indigenous families and community groups tend to congregate on grass, under trees and near commercial centres providing shelter from the elements. East Arm Reserve and Fannie Bay are typical of such sites.



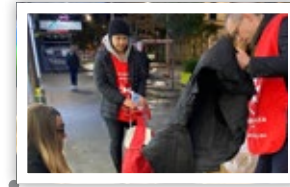
### PERTH

Every Monday, in partnership with St. Thomas More College, University of Western Australia, volunteers distribute to the homeless at the Moore Street Homeless Service in Perth.



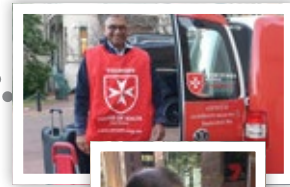
### BRISBANE

Twice a month, members and volunteers prepare and serve meals for the disadvantaged who visit Emmanuel City Mission in Brisbane. Whilst the food is greatly appreciated, the meaningful conversations between guests and volunteers have created a deep communal spirit.



### PARRAMATTA

In Parramatta our weekly Community Care Van service is often supported by students from Australian Catholic University, where they distribute to the homeless located in Alfred Park and Parramatta Train Station (and locations in between). The Order's 'red bibs' are now well recognised and our volunteers often meet familiar faces during their service.



### SYDNEY

Our Sydney Community Care Van operates twice a week where volunteers distribute Coats for the Homeless, water and hygiene packs.

During one service in September, they met Alan who asked after Order of Malta Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem, Bishop Danny Meagher, who was on a street mission prior to becoming a bishop. Alan was amongst the homeless who were invited to attend Bishop Danny's ordination at St Mary's Cathedral in December and was seated at the front pews. Our members put in a video call to Bishop Danny and he was delighted to have a chat and catch up with Alan.



### MELBOURNE

In Melbourne our weekly Community Care Van service consist of members, volunteers and students from Australian Catholic University. The team always take the time to talk with those they meet, to learn more about their circumstances and stories.



For more Order of Malta news visit [orderofmalta.org.au](http://orderofmalta.org.au)

Follow us on social media and learn about activities as they happen



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An exciting new facility in Southport, Queensland that will provide services to disadvantaged community members is set to open at the end of the year. The Centre will be a joint project of the Order of Malta and the Southport Catholic Parish.

The Order of Malta Community Care Centre will cater to a range of people needing assistance; the homeless, those suffering from mental illness, the elderly without adequate savings, refugees, young families with limited incomes and people on government welfare struggling to survive.

The project was initiated by Magistral Chaplain Fr Gerard McMorro, the Parish Priest for Southport, who recognised the need for services in the area. Whilst the Parish had the resources to offer premises for such a facility, they need a partner to run the Centre and approached Order of Malta Regional Hospitaller, Danny Higgins. A formal Memorandum of Understanding between the Order of Malta, the Southport Parish and the Archdiocese of Brisbane is being prepared to underpin the project.

*"Southport is an area of the Gold Coast that has suffered urban decay over the last few decades as new areas closer to the tourist locations have developed"* explained Danny. *"This has seen the area attract people who are no longer able to afford rent in these newer areas. Consequently, due to increased demand, rents in Southport are starting to rise and the most disadvantaged and vulnerable community members are faced with either, prioritising rent over feeding themselves, or finding themselves homeless. The new Centre will provide much needed services to*



*these people and is in direct alignment with the Order's mission"*.

Construction on the Centre is already underway. Pivotal to the project's success is creating a space disadvantage people can feel comfortable attending. Thanks to a grant from the Order's Global Fund for the Forgotten People, funding for the purchase of computer workstations, library materials, games and magazine subscriptions has been secured.

Once open, the Centre will provide breakfast and lunch on weekdays and it is anticipated it will serve up to 1,000 meals each week. It will also offer toiletries, clothing, showers and clothes washing facilities for those who need it.

The Order of Malta is also engaging other partners who serve this demographic. Rosies -Friends on the Street van outreach, who assist with the distribution of our Coats for the Homeless, are looking to use the Centre as a base. Emmanuel City Mission, a Catholic ministry operating a homeless outreach centre in Brisbane where Order of Malta members volunteer twice a month, have expressed strong support for the project and wish to develop a

relationship for mutual benefit between the centres.

The Centre will employ a full-time centre manager, however it will be volunteers from the Order of Malta, the local Parish and tertiary colleges that will form the bulk of the Centre's workforce.

Longer term the Centre intends to provide facilities for third party providers such as welfare agencies, medical and mental health referral services, domestic violence support, refugee, homelessness, probation services, triage nursing service, financial planning and legal aid. Eventually the Centre also hopes to offer its own services such as primary health care, counselling, training, advocacy and accommodation.

Please consider a tax deductible donation to assist with the day to day running costs of the Order of Malta Community Care Centre. Donations can be made on page 5.

Interested in volunteering?  
Register your interest at [orderofmalta.org.au/volunteer](http://orderofmalta.org.au/volunteer)





New students: Agario, Valeria and Lucio

## 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. Without your help, these children could never complete their schooling.

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 scholarships provide not only the payment of school fees, but other assistance and support to help the children overcome barriers that would prevent their participation in education, such as transport, uniforms and meals.

The program aims to assist the scholarship children 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.

### Meet our newest Scholarship students:

**Agario** is 15 years old and lives in Kuluhen Dili with his family. He has six siblings, but since they do not have enough money and rooms, his mother had allowed his older brother and youngest sister to live with an uncle in different city. Agario's mother is a housewife, and his father passed away last year. Consequently, his mother finds it very difficult to support all of them. Despite all this hardship, Agario always studies hard because his dream is to become a doctor in the future.

**Valeria** is 15 years old and lives with her parents and three siblings in two rented rooms in Comoro. Her father has recently become ill and is no longer able to work and her mother is trying to make ends meet by baking and selling cakes. Valeria is working hard at her schooling so that she can become a veterinarian.

**Lucio** is 16 years old and is in Grade 9 (pre-Secondary). Lucio is the youngest of three children. His parents are farmers in Viqueque and he stays with his cousin and uncle in Becora in rented rooms so that he can attend school. His older siblings are

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP:

- ✳ 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 to be awarded a scholarship will be taught that it comes with a **responsibility of "service to those they too can help"**, according to the fundamental ethos of the Order of Malta.

also attending University in Dili and their parents struggle to financially support all of them while they study. Lucio is a very diligent student and hopes to become a police officer after he finishes school.

**We currently have 9 children who qualify for scholarships. Sponsoring a child in the Creating Leaders Program costs \$100 per month and is tax deductible.**

**Please consider a monthly sponsorship or one-off donation to support our Creating Leaders students.**



## FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Every Wednesday the doors to the dining room of the Order of Malta Community Care Kitchen in Bondi open, and a steady stream of guests flow in. The atmosphere is jovial and friendly and each week there are a number of familiar faces – a good sign that the volunteers are doing the right thing and making a difference on a personal level.

This week, member of the Order of Malta Jean-Pierre, or "JP" as he is known, is 'head chef' and his work starts before the 6.30pm opening time.

*"For me, planning starts well before the day of service, and I always do a test run*



Staff from the Order of Malta medical clinic extending national vaccinations to residents of Ailele Hun, one of the areas around Dili identified by the Timorese Ministry of Health as lacking basic health services.

## EXPANDING ITS REACH TIMOR-LESTE MEDICAL CLINIC

The village of Ailele Hun, which sits high in the hills surrounding the Capital, Dili, is several hours' difficult walk from the national hospital or similar health services. Ailele Hun is one of the six districts which the Order now visits on a fixed day each week, so people can gather for diagnosis and treatment.

The outreach service has been made possible thanks to a grant from the

at home, where my family are the guinea pigs" explained JP. "On the day of service I do a shop and complete most of the preparation from home. I then transport everything to Bondi to complete the final cook at the kitchen."

In addition to the role of 'head chef', each service of the Community Care Kitchen has approximately five volunteers on hand who help set up, prepare and serve the food as well as clearing away at the end. However as JP stresses, amongst these duties "it is essential that we take the time to chat with and get to know our guests." He concedes, "doing it all can be exhausting but very spirituality satisfying".

This week, JP was joined by his 14 year-old son, Christian, who asked to accompany his father as part of his school's Community Care Program. The experience proved to be edifying and eye-opening and he was most interested in the life-stories of those he met.

Whilst this was Christian's first experience, JP has been volunteering with the Order of Malta since 2005. While living in Scandinavia for three years he helped the Missionaries of Charity in Copenhagen by volunteering in their soup kitchen. This put him face-to-face with the needy and directly helping them.

Order's Global Fund for Forgotten People which has funded the outreach vehicle and first year's staffing and consumables costs. The outreach team includes both a Doctor and a Midwife, and all Clinic staff participate in rotation.

These scheduled visits are vitally important in reaching the Order's principal objectives in Timor-Leste, which are: nutrition for infants, pregnant women and nursing mothers; and other health support during pregnancy and a child's first five years.

This includes treatment for severe malnutrition, as well as general education on healthy diet. It also includes: early identification of congenital conditions for remediation such as cleft palate; and early support for children with special needs, such as those with Downs Syndrome.

Alongside the maternal and infant health service, the outreach program delivers free primary care to anyone in need. This includes wound care, treatment for viral illness, and early identification of serious disease. For those needing treatment at the clinic or national hospital, it is also able to provide emergency transport from remote areas around the capital.

When the opportunity arose back at home in Sydney at the Community Care Kitchen in Bondi he did not hesitate and was present for the opening night of service and has been a regular volunteer ever since.

When asked what has surprised him most about our guests, JP replied, "that they come from all walks of life; over the years I've met former stockbrokers, medicos, chefs, television producers, as well as those to whom life has been difficult since their early years. They are always very happy after the meal and it makes me happy to have contributed to their feeling and the smiles that I see. It's all part of our purpose and one of our missions, "the serving of our lords, the sick and poor".

**The Order of Malta Community Care Kitchen at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Bondi is open every Wednesday between 6.30pm and 7.30pm. It is staffed by volunteers and offers a warm meal and welcome to anyone in need.**

**DONATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY CARE KITCHEN CAN BE MADE ON PAGE 5**

*"Going beyond the walls of the Clinic, enables the Order of Malta to provide medical services to those unable to access those offered in Dili"* explains Order of Malta member Alastair Furnival. "The outreach team expect to see 700 patients each month, who would otherwise go without treatment, in addition to the 600 we already see at the clinic".

**Whilst the longer-term goal is to provide further vehicles and staff to increase capacity of the outreach service, the immediate focus is to secure funding to sustain this initial vehicle.**

**The cost of an ambulance in Dili is approximately à \$60,000, with annual staffing and other costs of around à \$30,000. Donations of every scale are welcome and made at [orderofmalta.org.au](http://orderofmalta.org.au) or by completing the coupon on page 5.**

**For anyone seeking more information on our outreach, or the Order's broader works in Timor-Leste, please e-mail: [counsellor@orderofmalta.tl](mailto:counsellor@orderofmalta.tl)**



## ORDER OF MALTA CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER

Every year since the early 1980s, the Australian Association of the Order, has been providing an Annual Christmas Card for use by Members. It always maintained the same theme, an image of the Madonna and Child Jesus with his cousin John, very familiar to us as John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of our Order.

This year on the front cover we have The Virgin and Child with St. John the Baptist, Unknown Italian (c. 1750), after Raphael.

On the back of the card is a note about the Order's history and inside there is a Christmas greeting that reads:

*'May the Joy and Peace of Christmas be with you throughout the Year'*

Members, Candidates and friends of the Australian Association are urged to support the spiritual and charitable works of the Order by ordering these exceptional cards.

**\$35 for a pack of 10 (plus postage)**  
**ORDER NOW AT [SHOP.ORDEROFMALTA.ORG.AU](http://SHOP.ORDEROFMALTA.ORG.AU)**



## 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 I would like to support:

- Coats for the Homeless
- Camp for Disabled Youth
- Creating Leaders Scholarships
- Timor-Leste Medical Clinic
- Community Care Centre – Southport
- Community Care Kitchen - Bondi

**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.

Donations will be allocated to projects as requested by the donor. However if the needs of a project have already been met, we will allocate funds to another Order of Malta charitable activity.

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  Monthly Card Type  Visa  MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date     Cardholder name

Signature