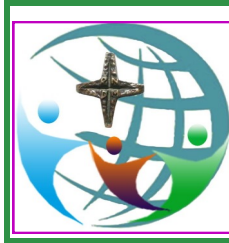


RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

April 2020

FOR RNDMS
ASSOCIATES
FRIENDS
SPONSORS &
PARTNERS



RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - ROME
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE
SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS
IN 22 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

CHRIST HAS RISEN, ALLELUIA

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you from Rome.

As the pandemic COVID 19 crisis is sweeping across the globe, the world is facing the greatest challenge ever after World War II. Daily life is very different as nations try to halt the pandemic. The global economy wavers as the world comes to a standstill. A few countries like Italy, Spain and the United States are overwhelmed with the rise of infected cases. Medical personnel on the frontlines are risking their lives and many are victims of the pandemic. This situation perhaps is calling us to ponder, to slowdown, to draw near to God and one another and to discern what is really important in life. Pope Francis has called for global participation "to respond to the coronavirus pandemic with the universality of prayer,"

On the other hand, there is a positive outcome due to decrease of transport, air travel, restrictions of movement and business activity. The air quality has improved, carbon footprint is reduced, social concern is rekindled, family being together, faith deepened, spirit of sharing and caring for one another is enlivened as people respond in many different ways.

This newsletter presents the stories from our people in mission who have benefited much from your generous contribution. We, at the IMDO, appreciate your continual support to the various projects of the congregation.

We are united with you in prayer for the healing of our world. May this Holy season of Easter be a time of hope and blessing for all humanity.

A blessed Easter to all !



Crescencia Sun

Crescencia Sun RNDM

Smitha Thomas

Smitha Thomas RNDM

RADIATING JOY IN CLASSROOM - India

Our Lady of the Missions School, Madurampattu educates 105 poor children from villages who experience hardship in life. They are used to sitting on the floor for their studies because they did not have benches and desks. The students, staff and sisters are grateful for the fund received from the Congregation Solidarity which supported the school towards the purchase of benches and desks. We could see smiles on the faces of our young students as they sat on beautiful new benches, placing their little arms on their desks, which seems heavenly for them. Teaching and learning in class rooms became much easier for both teachers and students. They try to keep their uniform clean and tidy as cleanliness has improved. Parents are very happy to see better facilities provided for their children.

This project has made a difference in the lives of our young students, their dignity is raised as they can now study better. They are aware that they are cared for, loved, given comfort, lessening of hardship as they received their basic rights. They felt important and recognised like other children in the society. They are doing better in their studies as they develop positive self-image in a safe environment.



Flavy C.

RNDM

SAFE DRINKING WATER, A PRECIOUS GIFT- Haflong - India

We are extremely happy and grateful to the Congregation Solidarity fund for the installation of a Reverse Osmosis System-water purifier. St. Agnes' Higher Secondary School, Haflong is situated on a hill track where there is a shortage of water. Over the past one hundred years, students and teachers had to bring their own drinking water to School. Due to lack of potable water in the area, many students had to purchase drinking water, it is a challenge for those who cannot afford to buy it. This project has enabled us to provide clean drinking water that safeguards and promotes health.



It has made a tremendous difference in the lives of everyone in St. Agnes' School particularly, the students, teachers, parents, sisters and coworkers. The students are very happy and say " this project has quenched the thirst of all with a pure, clean and safe drinking water, it has enhanced the health of the students, reduced the weight of school bags and helps parents and students economically. It has improved the hygiene and life of students and all others in the campus. It promotes smooth running of various functions and activities in the school. It is environmentally friendly as the students stopped using disposable water bottles. Our school is the first one to have installed RO System in the history of Dima Hasao district, Assam. This project has promoted awareness to other public sectors, hospitals, schools and institutions in the town of Haflong. A "big thank you" to all the benefactors and Sisters.



We will always remember and pray for all of you.

RNDM Haflong

EDUCATION IS THE KEY, Nha Trang - Vietnam



The RNDM Sisters express their wholehearted gratitude to you for your kindness, sensitivity and generous support. Through this project we were able to support 65 poor children, mostly girls from ethnic minorities. Generally, they come from large families and have experienced many difficulties. Their parents could not afford to send them to school and the majority of those in school were forced to dropout at an early age. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to pay for school fees, food, bicycles and school supplies. We are doing our best to help these girls complete high school and continue college or university. Meanwhile they have learnt many skills and grown in self-confidence.

One of the girls, Y Lanh is a special girl in our boarding. She belongs to Xedang ethnic minority group and is the second eldest of her six siblings. Her parents passed away when she was a little girl. All of them were very young and could not earn money to survive. They depended on a small income of the eldest brother. We welcomed Y Lanh, a lovely little girl, into our residential home. We provided her with basic needs, educational materials and a bicycle to get to school. She is doing her best in her studies and tries to become a good person with the hope of helping her family and the poor in the future. Once again, we thank you for your support and encouragement. May you be blessed by God abundantly.

Lucia Kim Cuong RNDM

SCHOOL KITS FOR QUALITY LEARNING, Bhotpara –Bangladesh

The Bhotpara primary school began in 2012 by the RNDM Sisters in Bangladesh, to reach out to the tribal village in educating the less privileged children of the area. There are fifty students in the school, of whom 22 are girls. These girls live in the residential home run by the sisters. The parents of these students are poor farmers who are not able to send them to school nor provide them with the required school supplies. Therefore, some children discontinue their schooling to work and support their families. Others struggle to replace their books, school bags and stationaries that get lost during monsoon season, making it harder for them to cope with their studies.

The Solidarity support came as a great relief and enabled us to purchase the required school items and teaching materials for the students. The positive aspect of this project is to encourage our disadvantaged tribal girls to attend school regularly and make it a quality learning experience for them. Now as each girl proudly owns her school bag with text and exercise books, stationaries, their learning interest has increased. Their reading and writing skills too have improved together with their self confidence and self-esteem. It is making a big difference to their lives and shaping a brighter future for them. Our goal is to inspire our tribal girls to read, expand their minds and develop a lifelong love for learning. The students, teachers and the guardians are happy and grateful and it has made a positive impact on the lives of the children in need. We appreciate your timely help in making our children's lives so much better and their learning made easier. May God bless your generosity at all times!



Irene Santi Nanuar RNDM

A HOPE FOR TOMORROW, Matuu, Kenya

Our gratitude for the generosity of many wonderful people, we were able to meet the costs of employing an Occupational Therapist at our Centre for the disabled in Matuu. The Physiotherapy Clinics are held twice weekly at our Centre, monthly clinics are conducted in seven Government clinics and three small homes specially equipped for the physically challenged. This special therapy service caters to 180 children, eighty of whom suffer from Cerebral Palsy. Through physiotherapy and regular exercise some children hope to be able to walk and attend school some day, while others require long term treatment and home care. The Occupational Therapist referred some of these children for corrective surgeries. Twenty of our clients benefitted from the free surgery offered by the doctors at Machakos hospital.



This year through Caritas Office, Machakos five of the parents with their children had the opportunity to attend a five day workshop where they were given education about understanding, accepting disabilities and facilitating growth in mobility and learning skills through exercise and play. We hope to offer this service to many more parents. It is encouraging to see the great joy of the parents as their children show small signs of improvement. Many parents make extra efforts to carry their children long distances to access therapy. We are deeply grateful for the Solidarity funds which enable us to help and support the physically challenged children and give them a ray of hope for their future.

Anna Ngan Ha RNDM

SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION

SULTAN KUDARAT- KULAMAN

Delesan Kailawan Center continues to reach out to the Manobo Dulangan people in Kulaman, Sultan Kudarat, seeking ways towards a united, self-determined, self-sustainable and empowered Manobo Dulangan Tribe. The particular focus of the center is to enable access to formal education for the Manobo Dulangan girls.

The staff of Delesan Kailawan, together with the Regional Leadership Team, continue to be committed in providing a space for these children to grow holistically. They are given personal accompaniment, cultural enrichment, tutition, medical care, home visits and good nutrition. We believe in the potential of these children, that in the future they will advocate on behalf of their tribe to ensure the protection of their rights. We hope that they will be future leaders who contribute to the self-determination of their people and will work towards a better future for the tribe. The education project is in collaboration with the parents, and other stakeholders who believe in and support the Center.

We are proud to share with you that three of the Delesan Kailawan Alumni who availed of our education program received awards for the service they are rendering in their own communities. At last, the hard work and commitment of young Manobo Dulangan Professionals are being recognized by the local Municipality .



Sabilita Dakias Tungkilan is now a professional teacher, has just been appointed as head of the school in the Manobo Village. Elsie Bandala and Corazon Onding Cablas are both professional midwives, they are employed in the Municipal Rural Health Unit from 2018. Elsie is now available on an on-call basis for the Health program of the Delasan Kailawan Centre. All the three young women come from remote villages under the same Municipality.

Witnessing the contributions of these young women giving back to their own communities, renews our own enthusiasm for climbing mountains to reach out to them and our courage to continue journeying with the Manobo Dulangan people. It is rewarding to see the younger generation taking pride in who they are.

We are truly grateful for the financial support of all our mission partners and congregation Solidarity fund for your generous contribution. Together with the children we extend our gratitude for the ongoing education of the Manobo Dulangan indigenous children of Kulaman.

THANK YOU

Delma Barrientos RNDM



RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE—ROME

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