

# RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER



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



SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Sisters and Friends

September 21st is International Day of Peace. Each year the International Day of Peace is observed throughout the world on this day. The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of Peace both within and among all nations and all peoples.



Pope Francis on the Church's World Day of Peace gave this message: No peace without a **"culture of care"**. The Holy Father appeals to the international community and every individual to foster a culture of care by advancing on the "path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations." "There can be no peace without a **culture of care**," the Pope stresses in his message on the World Day of Peace. The Holy Father calls for "a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show **care and compassion**, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance." (Pope Francis on World Day of Peace)

Your generosity and partnership in the projects featured in this Newsletter is a great sign of your **care and compassion** that gives dignity to all, and contributes to the ideals of Peace. Let us continue to be peacemakers in our families, our communities and our world. God bless your efforts to be peacemakers!

*Smitha Thomas*

Smitha Thomas RNDM

## FACING THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE AT HOGAR BELEN, MOQUEGUA

Peru is one of the countries with major cases of contagion from Covid-19 and high numbers of deaths in South America. Our goal in Hogar Belen was to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and protect our children, personnel, volunteers and neighbors. We assisted those under our care and others around in need. We also cared for the sick who were affected with Covid, providing them with sanitizers, medicines and food kits to keep them alive.

Part of our project was to equip a medical room in case of emergency due to Covid, as hospitals were collapsing with the increased number of patients. We are grateful to God that so far our children and the vulnerable people have



been saved from the virus and are doing well.

We insist on doing the prevention by washing hands, keeping social distancing, wearing face masks and also living a healthy life-style.

We are very thankful to our Sisters and donors for their trust in our mission. May God bless you and we continue to send you our prayers and good wishes from the Sisters and Children of Hogar Belen.



Fabiola Caceres Torres RNDM

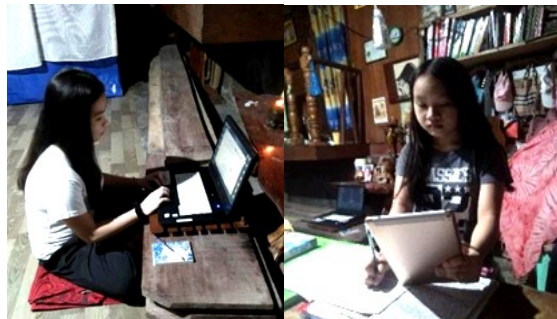


## WHOLENESS AND WELLNESS PROGRAM AT BALAY EUPHRASIE – DAVAO

Year 2020 has been a difficult year for the whole world. The world that we knew changed right before our eyes with the lockdowns and social restrictions that were set in different places to protect everyone from the Coronavirus Pandemic.

One of the main changes that the Pandemic brought, was in the delivery method of education all around the world, as in the Philippines. The school year started late because of all the preparations that were needed. Sudden requirements were imposed on students to have some form of digital equipment (from cell phones, tablets etc.) to receive the instructions needed in school. Face-to-face classes were suspended and the schools resorted to modular classes, which involved production of activity worksheets and Internet platforms released on a weekly or bi-weekly schedule. All of the college and university classes have been transferred to an online platform.

Balay Euphrasie, through the assistance of the solidarity fund were able to share in the education of 7 students, 3 in high school and 3 in college and 1 in vocational school. The students came from families who needed financial support to send these young women to school. Apart from the digital equipment, access to the internet was also vital. Balay Euphrasie offered the computer and internet access to some of the students who lived close-by. Arrangements were made for 2 students to stay in Balay so that they can attend their daily online classes. In return, they shared daily lives with RNDM sisters in the compound by watering the plants and doing some chores in the house. All are grateful for the opportunity to be able to continue their studies amid the challenge of Pandemic.



The students also came together to plant some garden vegetables that were shared to children who were cared for by the other congregations that RNDMs network with in Davao: the orphanage of Mother Teresa, the street children under the care of the Marist Fathers and the young women under the care of Marist Sisters. Some of the senior citizens around our area harvested some of the vegetables that they could cook and share with their families.

At this time when separation and disconnection is a common path to be in, because of the need to protect and safeguard each other from the spread of the virus in the communities, we are blessed to be able to gather together and reach out to others.

We are grateful for this opportunity and funding that we have received from our Sisters and friends this year.

**Weeya Villanueva RNDM**

## ABHISHEK 'S STORY FROM NIRMALALAYA CENTRE, INDIA

The Nirmalalaya Social Service Centre run by the RNDM Sisters in Almel, has been reaching out to specially abled children and their families. Our focus is on the health and nutrition along with educational support to the children. We reached out to 150 such children and are glad to share the story of one of the boys named Abhishek Suresh Hosamani.



*"I am Abhishek Suresh Hosamani from Vibhutihalli' village. I am 15 years old and the only child of my parents. They work as day labourers in the field. If they do not go to work one day, then we have to struggle for our daily food. I use to go to the Primary school which is 2 km away from my village. My father would carry me to the school and bring me back home in the evening. Many times, my father had to miss going to work because of me. My family came to know Nirmalalaya Social Service Centre and they started to support me and my family. I began to receive the nutritious food every month and my family also received dry ration and food kit during lockdown period. The Sisters gave my parents a loan to buy a goat that would generate some income for the family. Recently, I also received a wheel-chair which helps me to move around independently.*

*Today I am very much grateful for your help where my family feels truly lifted up and are trying to be self-sufficient. Thank you for the care and support to me and my family. I have not been to school due to the Covid lockdown, but now I am happy to go back to school after the lockdown, on my wheel chair. God bless all my donors!"*

**Oliva Saldana RNDM**



## RNDM MISSION AMONG THE MANOBO DULANGAN PEOPLE - PHILIPPINES

Delesan Kailawan Centre continues to work collaboratively with the Manobo Dulangan towards healthy, self-determined and united tribe. The Centre in collaboration with different groups, friends and RNDM provinces of the congregation who share their resources remains faithful in assisting the Manobo Dulangan Tribe with basic necessities in education, health and income generating projects amidst the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic.



The Center continues to support sixty children coming from different villages whose parents are illiterate and unable to guide them in their studies. Due to the pandemic, from last school year and until now, we accommodate 40-45 girls in the center in order to follow the health protocols. We prioritize the farthest villages who have difficulty in transportation and needs to do research related studies. The rest of the children whose parents can manage to assist, stay at home to do their module classes. The children who are doing their modules at home have been provided with school supplies, tuition fees and nutritious food to keep them healthy. The school follows the modular program and the teachers prepare lessons for two weeks and distribute to the students. The school organized pick-up locations especially for those students coming from interior villages with difficult access to travels and communication. The modules can be collected

by the parents or guardian in the school (for those able) or the teachers deliver to the nearest vicinity in the villages. In the Dormitory the children follow the usual schedule of study time. The teachers make themselves available at the centre or the children can go to school when need arises. The children follow the instructions and study, analyze and answer the modules for two weeks and take a separate exam after the submission of their modules back to school or within the pick-up locations. The student-in-charge takes the responsibility to collect and submit their completed modules to the school. When need arises the students are also provided with tutors to help them follow their modules. The children who stay in the Dorm are provided with timely modules and exam papers in spite of the Covid challenges.

Our heartfelt gratitude to our Sisters and friends in supporting the education program. We keep one another in prayer and we keep the fire of love burning within in us, with joy we continue the work of love.

*Delma M. Barrientos, RNDM*

## SUPPORTING THE MIGRANT CHILDREN, INDIA NORTH EAST

The Sisters at Dona Maria Convent in Guwahati are committed to helping and supporting the migrant families, providing education and basic necessities for their children.



The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on these poor families and resulted in the loss of jobs for many of the parents. That is why most migrants are daily labourers and are forced to leave their children at home while they struggle to make a living.

The sisters have identified 20 children, offer them their hospitality, care and support while their parents are out at work for the whole day. During the day, the children are given the opportunity to attend tuition classes and are provided with regular meals.

It is a great relief for the parents to know their children are in a safe place and at the same time they are educated and receive proper nutrition. Thanks to the contributions received from many donors, we were able to provide nutritious food and purchase new pieces of furniture as well as toys to help motivate the children in their activities and make a difference in their lives.

We are grateful for your generosity and support in continuing our mission,



*Aispiline Kharthangmaw RNDM*





## STORIES FROM TEI WA NGAI– KENYA

### *Joshua Mutundinda Nzioka*

Joshua is in Nursery Boarding Primary School for the Deaf at Machakos County. His mother Matha Nzioka, is mentally challenged. Joshua was born around 2005, the second boy in the family of five children. Joshua's father died in a sand storm accident in 2021. After a month, the wife gave birth to twin boys. Joshua's father was the only earning member in the family. Food and basic needs have become a big challenge for their daily living. The family depends on well-wishers for many things.

Tei Wa Ngai helps with Joshua's school fee, transportation and shopping. His mother cannot take him to school and back, so our Tei Wa Ngai health worker who is responsible for him does it as for her own child. This family is in an extreme poverty situation and is being supported by the generosity of our donors and well wishers. The family remains ever grateful for your support.



### *Naomi Syombua Ndati*

Naomi is 10 years old with Cerebral Palsy from Machakos. Her mother Miriam, has three other children. From the photos you can see that Naomi is lying on the ground!

Naomi's parents are living in very poor conditions. Miriam has no work and occasionally helps the neighbors around for casual labor. The place is very dry; although they have a small piece of land, it produces nothing. Famine is an obvious struggle to cope with in their daily life. Miriam's husband is working at Kitheuni dispensary as a cleaner and he has not been paid for almost a year. It is very difficult for the family to manage. Naomi is the third born and needs to be taken care of for 24 hours. Miriam loves her so much and carries her to our outreach clinics at Kitheuni. It is quite a long distance. Naomi needed a wheelchair to move around and to come to the clinic for physiotherapy.

Tei Wa Ngai was able to give her a wheelchair and also food kits whenever we visit the family. They need to have a bigger, better house for all activities but it remains a big a challenge .....



Tei Wa Ngai Centre has been in partnership with an NGO called Special Education Profession, in Nairobi. They have supported us this year, by organizing different types of training for our mothers, physios and occupational therapists. It has been a wonderful support and our staff and children have gained much from this training.

One of our occupational therapists working with us writes about her experience at TWN. *"The program has been of great help to the community and the society at large, in taking care of the disabled, by providing them with treatment and equipment like wheelchairs and other, that are essential to make their daily performance a success. I have gained much experience in my practice, where I faced all sorts of conditions requiring my intervention as an Occupational Therapist. I extend my gratitude to the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions for their support, and for making our therapy work more efficient. May GOD bless you abundantly."* Mary M.Mwaka

The program has been totally relying on donors and your generosity has helped many children and saved a number of lives. We are ever grateful for your support and partnership in our mission.

Ngan Ha RNDM



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