Mary's World

September 2017



Dear friends and supporters of MMI

Welcome to the September 2017 edition of Mary's World. In a world fraught with violence, oppression and suffering, it can often be hard to find hope. Thanks to your support we can continue the legacy of Mary MacKillop and that brings great hope.

Hope that has allowed thousands of teachers to be trained in Timor-Leste over the last 20+ years, hope that brings inclusiveness and peace to communities in Papua New Guinea and Peru, and hope that allows dozens of women and their families the opportunity of a livelihood in Peru.

This same hope and expectation is permeating the Josephite ministries as we prepare for the exciting merger of Mary MacKillop International and the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

By now, you will have received a letter from Sister Monica Cavanagh, our Congregational Leader, outlining the merger. We have also set-up a Blog on our website at www.mmi.org.au to keep you updated in the lead up to the merger date 1st July 2018.

As valued partners, we appreciate and respect your contribution into this exciting development in the mission of the Josephite ministries, so please feel free to give me a call or send me an email if you have any comments or ideas.

Thank you for your ongoing support and in particular, for your prayers for a fruitful transition.

With gratitude,

K. Robertson Kirsty Robertson - CEO

Education ... empowering future leaders

In Peru, MMI, in partnership with the Centro de Educacion, Organizacion y Promocion del Desarrollo, trains teachers and involves students in an effort to promote safe environments for children, both in their schools and in their homes.

MMI's School Peace Program, with your help, will continue to strengthen the capacity of school communities to manage, respond to, and ultimately prevent violence in schools, allowing children in Peru to grow to be active, compassionate contributors in building a positive society. Just like these inspiring future leaders pictured here in front of a mural they painted to campaign against violence in their schools, and in their communities.

These dedicated students have also established Peace Committees, offering peer mentoring services while acting against violence through drama, radio and even the odd flash-mob!

"The children are no longer quiet about things that are important to them. They learn to speak out about their challenges and about their rights. The children become part of the solution" Norma (Teacher)

Future leade

In Timor-Leste, your ongoing support of MMI's Mobile Learning Centre (MLC) has meant that some children now have access to educational, fun and empowering learning experiences. MMI has been very lucky to have The Wiggles come on board to help promote the MLC and help tackle the challenges of providing access to quality education to the poorest and most neglected children. Your partnership with MMI means that the MLC can reach more children in and around the poorest areas around Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste and Likisar. To watch The Wiggles special song for the MLC head to MMI's website or our Youtube channel!

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Mary MacKillop International is a signatory Development Code of Conduct reflecting MMI's Compliance with industry Standards

Inspired by Australia's first saint, MMI empowers communities overseas to realise their dignity through education, health and livelihoods. MMI's approach to development is shaped by the principles of our organisation. These principles are Human Dignity, Common Good,

Mary MacKillop International acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the land, past and present, on which all our

Dignity Compassion Justice



Timor-Leste has one of the poorest outcomes for preventable diseases in all of Asia. MMI's Health Literacy program works with teachers in the most remote communities to engage children in health education and awareness through interactive games, music and drama.

Recently, Jude, a 37 year old teacher in Viqueque, was happy to attend MMI's training, as all the information on health and hygiene was new to him. Jude found that after the training, all of those who attended started to think about promoting healthy behaviour by making their own rubbish bins with wood. Jude met with his Director to share his idea and was supported with money to build a big rubbish bin to put in the middle of the school. Now students throw their rubbish in the bin that was built by the teachers! Jude said that he is thankful to MMI and our supporters for being able to help create a healthy environment in his school.



"It was great training... Do you know why? MMI not only train in health topics... but teach us health songs, hygiene practices and provide resources that I think are really useful to practice with our students."

In Papua New Guinea nearly one million children and adults with disabiliy lack access to proper support services. One of MMI's on the ground partnerships is with Callan Vanimo Special Resource Centre (Callan Services) that seeks to address this imbalance.

Recently Prisca, who trained as a Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Volunteer, was out in her village talking about MMI's Inclusive program when she was approached by a mother asking for help with her daughter, Sila.

Prisca met with Sila, who is 14 years old and has a visual impairment and discovered that for Sila, school started to become too difficult for her when she was unable to see the board or read her books.

In grade 5, with her teachers busy with other students, Sila began feeling like she wasn't being included and decided she didn't want to go to school anymore.

"I was new to this, but using the skills and knowledge I have learnt from training...I did an examination and found that Sila could only see for one metre. I knew she needed an immediate referral."

Sila was referred to classes at Callan Services with a goal of building her confidence to re-enter mainstream school.

Thanks to your compassion and committment to MMI and Prisca's referral, Sila now has a new lens to help her read and has rediscovered her passion for reading and education, helping to make a brighter future possible.

Dignity Compassion Justice

Livelihoods... a fair go for all

Sustainable, meaningful and fair livelihoods benefit whole communities, decreasing poverty that helps families to lead meaningful lives, open to all possibilities.

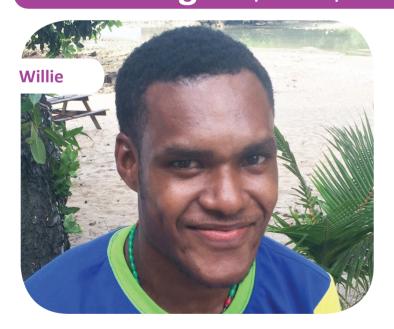
In Peru, MMI partners with a local NGO Solidaridad para el Desarrollo, supporting women like Lourdes, who at age 27 was elected by the women of the Puka Phallcha Association to be their president. Lourdes, like the all women of the association, are proud of their accomplishments and participation in a range of training workshops run through MMI's Women's Livelihoods Project.

These workshops do not only focus on income generation, but also on human rights, citizenship, and leadership training, helping to ensure that the women's voices can be heard in their community. Recently one group member left a meeting early to be sworn in as a local community leader, a great outcome of the ongoing support you are providing. And each time you purchase a Fair Trade product via www.ethica.org.au you are directly contributing to lives of all these women, like Lourdes:

"Before this project, we were afraid to talk and participate in meetings in our community. But now, thanks to our training, we are able to participate and share our opinions with the community."



Launching... PNG partnerships



In Sydney, on Friday 19 May 2017, MMI officially launched our programs in Papua New Guinea, celebrating the history and ongoing legacy of the Federation Josephites in PNG. We introduced our supporters to our partnership programs that focus on inclusive communities for those with disabilities and early childhood learning.

Leading up to the night, one of our invited international guests, Willie Akela (a CBR Volunteer) from Callan Services in Vanimo, spent 10 days in Sydney; visiting schools, meeting supporters and attending the occasional Rugby League match! All before participating in our Launch together with the Sisters of St Joseph, whose mission took them to PNG in the 1960s through to the early 2000s. On the night, Willie, who is hearing impaired, taught the audience a prayer in sign language and shared stories with the Sisters and our guests. Be inspired with Willie's life story and watch our DVD featuring Willie, by going to our website www.mmi.org.au.



Thank you for your ongoing generous support of MMI. If you'd like to join us by becoming a Parish Ambassador, speaking for MMI, organising a prayer group or running an Ethica stall please contact MMI:

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Staying Connected

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