

Be **Fierce** for **Fair**

MARY
MACKILLOP
today



"Be a gift of love and
compassion for one another."

Saint Mary MacKillop 1909

The Mobile Learning Centre brings fun educational activities and resources to thousands of children in remote preschools and primary schools across some of the most overlooked areas of Timor-Leste, while also supporting parents and teachers.

Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop - 8 August

Juliana

“When I grow up, I want to be a teacher so I can help other children like me.”

—Juliana, aged 11.

Juliana is the youngest of five children in a remote farming community in Timor-Leste. Her family often goes without food so she can attend school—because they believe education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Juliana is now thriving through our Inclusive Early Education program. One highlight of the program is our colourful mobile learning centre—a bus filled with books, music, toys, and art supplies that brings joyful learning to rural communities.

Local educators also work with families to build confidence and skills to support children’s learning at home.

Today, Juliana dreams of becoming a teacher—“I know I must study hard, and that the teachers must be good at teaching so that I can get there.”



Maria

“I feel inspired. I feel motivated. I want my students to love learning — and I want to make sure no child is left behind.”

— Maria, Teacher.

Maria is a high school teacher in Gleno, a small city on the coast of Timor-Leste, who recently completed training with Mary MacKillop Today's Inclusive Early Education program. The training, Maria says, was transformative. "It's not just about teaching. It's about reaching every child, including those with disabilities, and creating a supportive environment for them to learn alongside their peers."

Another key part of the training focused on student wellbeing. Maria shared how teaching music can help calm children and prepare them to learn. "We learned how to connect our students with their emotions and how to calm them down in class. When children feel safe and calm, they are ready to absorb what we teach them." Most importantly, Maria says the training changed her as a teacher. "It made me think about how I carry myself in the classroom."

With new tools and a renewed sense of purpose, Maria is back in her classroom putting everything she learned into practice.



Joaquim

“Our new teacher is teaching us how to be good people – helping us to learn to be good for the future.”
—Joaquim, aged 9.

Joaquim is 9 years old and is in third grade. He lives in a remote part of Timor-Leste. This doesn't stop Joaquim from making sure that he gets to school every day, walking long distances with his friends. At school, he studies maths, Tetum literacy, Portuguese and health. All the subjects he knows he needs for brighter future.

After school, Joaquim will need to help his mother and father in the fields, working hard before opening any of his study books. Knowing how important his education is, Joaquim will borrow books from his teacher to bring home to try and learn everything he needs for school the next day.

The books from his teacher are vital resources that the Mobile Learning Centre, through your generous support brings to Joaquim's school.

