



## NEW WEB SITE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

Go to [www.worldfamilies.org.au](http://www.worldfamilies.org.au)

To view our new web site

Kerry and Bert have done a wonderful job of  
updating our web site. While there are a few,  
small finishing touches to be completed

the new website is a breath of fresh air.

The new website showcases our Project Officers with photo's and profiles and is nearly complete. Each country has a separate page and projects are clearly described. There is a **DONATE** now button with access to both direct debit and PayPal. Past *Impact* Newsletters can be accessed . The photo's are colorful, dynamic and new.

Please have a look at the new website and let us know what you think!

## Ethiopia: Medical Outreach Projects

There are two co-existing WFA medical projects in Ethiopia. The Medical Emergency Fund (MEF) provides for transport, care, surgery and medicine for individuals in need, and the Medical Outreach (MOP) funds initiatives supporting Ethiopian doctors and hospitals to strengthen community health care in the country, including funding training of health care workers, clinics to rural areas, health screening programs and otherwise supporting community health access. One of the MOP projects provides support to the Bulbula region assisting sick, malnourished or disabled children through Sr Abeba. MOP covers the children's food while in Addis (the capital city), medical treatment, medicines, car rental and driver, fuel and hotel accommodation, in addition to the new expenses now required due to COVID. Sr Abeba endeavours to enrol any children assisted medically into the school she runs, to provide them with an education, a daily meal and ongoing supervision/support following/during their medical treatment. Kate Drogemuller facilitates a WFA program supporting the school and other community needs - email Kate at [katedrogemuller@bigpond.com](mailto:katedrogemuller@bigpond.com) if you would like more information.

### COVID-19 impacts

There are additional expenses for Sr Abeba (and all projects) at present, as they need hand sanitiser and face masks due to COVID. In addition, Sr Abeba has to take all the children requiring medical care to the city, Addis Ababa, for COVID tests then bring them back to Bulbula to quarantine – in her home - for 10 days. Only then, and depending on the COVID results, can she take them for treatment. This means there are additional transport costs (driver, car hire, fuel) and the 10 days of care for around 10 children, including employing a worker who speaks their language – in addition to the sanitiser and masks. **These additional costs come to \$600-800 for each group of 10 children.**



### Bulbula children assisted through the medical program

When Sr Abeba first moved to Bulbula, children with medical issues such as blindness, birth defects and epilepsy, were often hidden away and not seen. However after a child with imperforate anus was treated successfully with several surgeries, many children are brought to Sr Abeba. We have found that this includes a significant number of children with congenital issues such as imperforate anus, spina bifida, cleft palate and limb defects, and so I am exploring the potential for supporting a folic acid supplement program and education on nutrition for teen and adult females in the area. Children being helped at the moment include two very malnourished girls aged 6yrs and 8yrs (photo below left). Funds are needed to rent them a house with their family members close by the clinic so their precarious condition can be monitored. The little boy (right) is one of many born missing a leg who is receiving assessment for a prosthetic limb.



If you want to assist, label your donation as **Medical Outreach Project (MOP)**.

Sandi Petersen

Email: [rspetersen@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rspetersen@optusnet.com.au)



# Ruth & Naomi Community Centre

## Indonesia



World Families Australia welcomes Chrissy Sulisty and the Ruth & Naomi Community Centre to our family of care. Below is Chrissy's statement of the vision and goals of the Community Centre.

**Ruth Naomi Community Centre** began in 2015 when I saw a need for the vulnerable widows and their children in my village to be supported and equipped in providing ongoing income for themselves, and to rebuild their lives after grief and loss. I responded by renovating my home in my village of Waribang with the purpose of creating a Community Centre that could develop a better future for the widows and children, bringing hope, love and transformation in their lives and in the lives of others in the community.

**ENCOURAGING:** To support the emotional well-being of widows and children pastoral care and visits.

**EMPOWERING:** Activities – sewing course, cooking course, fish farming at the property and a community vegetable garden to equip them with purpose, instill in them a sense of self-worth and develop life skills.

**EDUCATING:** Equipping – Guitar lessons, basic numeracy and literacy classes for the children of the widows who are behind in their education or cannot afford schooling.

**PROVISION:** We also provide monthly hampers for staples such as rice, oil, sugar, spices, noodles and cleaning supplies.

We feel privileged and blessed that the village has embraced Ruth Naomi Community Centre as part of a positive contribution in the development of the community.

Our live-in Caretaker/Co-Ordinator Natal, who has served from the very beginning with her time, gifts and generous heart, is passionate about this project and has dedicated her boundless energy, love and support to the House of Ruth and Naomi Community Centre. We could not operate without Natal's continuous devotion and passion. We do hope to support her financially one day in the future.

As for me, Ruth Naomi Community Centre began as and always will be simply a labor of love.

Founder: Chrissy Sulisty

# Good Shepherd Sisters ~ Nong Khai

## Nong Khai Education Programme - Closure

For many years World Families Australia has provided sponsorship to a children's education programme located in Nong Khai - North East Thailand near the border of Laos. The support was provided through The Good Shepherd Sisters, extending to some 600 students from primary school through to secondary university and technical college.

Unfortunately, over recent times communication with the administrative section of the project deteriorated. Progress reports from sponsored children became increasingly spasmodic and requests for information remained unanswered. As a result the Management Committee of World Families of Australia reluctantly decided to terminate sponsorship of the programme as of December 2020. Peter Mann

**This is the final report from Nong Khai we will receive.**

Based on funding received the Project was able to implement the following activities during the year 2020.

Basic literacy, nutritional support and education in Thai, Burmese and English was provided for 150 migrant children and adolescents (between 5 and 14 years). During the year 2020, the project provided education for a total of 277 Burmese children (F129, M 148) of which 141 were documented and 136 were undocumented. This exceeded the targeted number of 150 children. During the year 43 children left the program for the following reasons:

- 6 went back to Myanmar to study*
- 27 moved with parents somewhere else in Thailand*
- 1 start to work helping the family affair*
- 1 go to Thai Public school continue study in Thailand*
- 5 finish our highest class continue with Skill training*

We spent the month of June preparing our Learning Facility to be able to safely host students again. We have 250 students registered this year. As we are unable to accommodate that many students at a time while still maintaining proper social distancing and safety precautions, so we split the students into 2 groups of 125 students each. One group attended Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and the other attended Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Working 6 days a week put an extra strain on the teachers and not having every child in school 5 days a week was difficult for the parents as well.

Starting the week of November 2, we discontinued Saturday school but will stay in groups of 125 alternating every other Friday to ensure each student is getting the same number of learning hours. We continue to require that they manage their own cups, utensils, and face shields and keep them clean. Starting in April, we delivered food bi-weekly to the homes of all of our families. The food kits included: rice, oil, fish sauce, tinned mackerel, dry noodles, eggs, and snack foods or desserts for the children. We also provided basic hygiene and safety equipment such as masks, hand sanitizers, toothbrushes, and soap.

The experience of living in fear of the authorities, especially for irregular migrants is very real. Domestic violence and other forms of exploitation, drug addiction, gambling and alcoholism are common among the migrant communities. The counselling services offered by GSPT will help to address some of the mental health issues experienced by the migrant communities.





## Philemon Academy Foundation Inc. April 2021 Report

### from Elaine & Bruce Smith, Philippines Project Officers

Manila continues to be in running lockdowns, currently children under the age of 17 are not allowed outside their homes. Only one older member of a family can go out but there are still travel and area restrictions. Any breaking of these restrictions will place that person in prison!

Bruce, Elaine (WFA project officers) and Glenn Smith (WFA treasurer) managed to get in what will probably be our last visit to the Philippines for some time! Most of our students and their families have stayed free of Covid19 despite the prevalence of it in the country. We are so grateful we got to spend quality time with them all before our world got turned upside down!

It was with sadness we learned today 20/04/21 that someone in our community passed due to Covid and four family members now have Covid.

School has continued, with those that can, doing online lessons and others doing manual assignments. Our teachers are doing an amazing job with all the restrictions affecting them too. Our local coordinators have been distributing food to our communities. They had difficulty at first but were then given permits to distribute food to all our students and their families, most of whom are subsistence workers, that work has been severely restricted by all the ongoing lockdowns. A big thank you to all our supporters for your valued support of this project and the children, this work continues despite the severe restrictions of COVID 19 and our communication with them remains open and regular.



The following are photos of some of our teachers most of whom were indigents that we helped gain their teaching degrees and are now giving back to the communities they grew up in! They all choose to teach our indigent kids despite only getting a small wage. Every one of them could earn a far better salary in the public or private sector.

Regards Bruce & Elaine Smith, Project Officers Philippines





Speakers are available to tell groups about the work of W.F.A.

Please contact us through the office: (08) 8258 7909

## LAST DAY FOR YOUR GIFT THIS QUARTER

**1st June 2021**

### Please Note

**Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 3rd August 2021**

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FOR THOSE WHO LOVE  
WITH HEART AND SOUL,  
THERE IS NO SUCH A  
THING AS SEPARATION

Rumi

SMALL ACTS,  
WHEN MULTIPLIED BY  
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE,  
CAN TRANSFORM  
THE WORLD.

Ministry of Education

**LIFE**

is the greatest journey you will ever be on.

Opinions expressed by contributors to Sponsorship  
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Australia

Editor: Diane Amato