

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

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



JUNE 2024

Dear Sisters and Friends

Transforming lives through education and empowerment is the key to RNDM ministries. The Sisters strive to do this through you – our mission partners and friends. We appreciate and value your contribution in our efforts to reach out to the less fortunate people of our society.

The articles in this newsletter speak about changing lives and making a difference to children, women and families who hope for a brighter future. Education is the key to empower young minds freeing them from the state of poverty. There is much suffering around our world and **according to UNESCO data (2022), 244 million children and youth between the ages of 6 and 18 worldwide, are still out of school.** In my recent visit to Vietnam I witnessed the struggles children and families living in boat houses face. They dream of being able to go to school one day. The RNDM sisters have taken up the challenge, gathering children by boats and teaching them. All of us cannot reach out to be everywhere, but let us do our part to become more aware of these realities around us and try to do the small things with generous hearts, to be agents of change for a better world.

We are deeply grateful to all our Sisters, friends and mission partners for their constant support and encouragement. With God and you on our side all things are possible! I pray that God may bless and reward you and your families!

Smitha Thomas R.N.D.M

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AT BOLIPARA - BANGLADESH

The RNDM Sisters run a residential home for 130 tribal girls and boys from interior villages of Bolipara, Bandarban, and the Hill Tracks. They come from different tribes - Marma, Tripura and Bown. The Sisters also collaborate with the parish and give pastoral services to the parish community. Our collaboration continues to flourish and we provide opportunities for education and health care for the wellbeing of the girls and boys who are under our care. The parents of these children are extremely poor, have no steady jobs and struggle to make a living. Therefore, they cannot afford their children's educational expenses and



other expenses.

Some of the parents if they can, make a small contribution as part of their children's school fees. These children come to us undernourished, and it takes time and resources to nurture them back to good health.

The Solidarity grant received was well used for providing nutritious food items and to meet educational expenses. The children are very happy, their health have improved and they are better able to concentration on their studies. We are thankful to you for giving them hope for a better future!

Rose Sulehka RNDM

QUALITY AND ENJOYABLE EDUCATION - KENYA



Euphrasie school in Mbjajone was inspired by the vision of our Foundress Euphrasie Barbier who had a deep passion for educating and uplifting marginalized children from poverty. The school was initiated by the Kenyan Province, who felt the need for educating the less fortunate children of Mbjajone, in Meru Diocese. This dream soon became a reality for the Sisters as many parents came seeking for admission for their children. Most of them come from poor families who cannot afford school fees, notebooks and stationery items while others come from far-off villages walking 4-5kms daily.



The support we received from the Christmas Catalogue - 'a gift that makes a difference' has helped our children to get the text books and school stationery that they need. Besides books and stationery, we were able to have enough tables, chairs and lockers made which are less costly and more durable for the class rooms. We really wished to provide a space for children to keep their items locked and free from the fear of losing them. The teachers are also able to store pupils work and safeguard the materials properly after their class. With the increase in the number of enrollments this year, we are happy to have enough furniture for the pupils. Since the classrooms are well equipped, the pupils have a comfortable learning environment and are able to concentrate better in class. The parents are very happy too and the school is growing gradually. Our thanks and prayers to all our donors and benefactors.

Scholastica Mutua RNDM



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE - PHILIPPINES

The Balay Euphrasie Team Davao, hosted four working scholars who became integral members of our community, assisting in various capacities and immersing themselves in community life alongside the RNDM sisters. They continue serving the community while embarking on their internships. They assumed the role of ministry companions to the sisters-in-training during Sunday visits to different ministry sites and aided in orienting them to cultural events in the local area. Throughout the year, the Balay team, along with the scholars, engaged with the local community through various activities. One notable initiative involved organizing activities for children in the area, with a focus on ecological awareness. These activities included collection and sorting of trash, as well as initiatives to plant and cultivate vegetation within the compound.



Additionally, during the festive season, we celebrated with the children, expressing gratitude for the shared experiences and growth throughout the year. Furthermore, the BE team fostered connections with senior widows in the community, regularly visiting and spending time with them, and offered prayers and support during times of illness, demonstrating our commitment to caring for the most vulnerable members of our community. The solidarity fund has facilitated various initiatives aimed at fostering community engagement, environmental stewardship, and support for vulnerable members of society, promoting wholeness and wellness. We are grateful for the opportunity to have strengthened bonds within our community and contributed to positive social impact.

Patricia Lao RNDM

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MICRO CREDIT - SENEGAL

RNDM sisters in Senegal work with women to educate and empower them to rise above poverty and make some income for the family. In many families women are the sole bread winners due to many reasons. Through the project of micro-credit, the women are able to start small scale businesses. They buy the whole-sale products from the big markets and sell them in the village. These activities bring them some income to meet their family's daily needs.

Thanks to this project, 17 new self-help groups were supported to start their activities of small commerce. In this way, they become self-supportive and do not depend on their husbands. They can rely on some income to meet their children's and household's daily needs.



This project has given them dignity and respect in the society as each one is able to support herself.



Apart from being involved in self-help groups, the women take care of the environment. Each group takes responsibility in finding a day to clean the public places. This activity enables the women to keep the surroundings clean and creates in them a sense of responsibility while contributing to a healthy environment. Women feel more empowered, self-confident and are able to find a better place in the society.

Cyria Nogrum RNDM

INTEGRATED EDUCATION AT CHU STUDY CENTER– VIETNAM

The RNDM community in Chu welcomes many primary pupils from poor families who face many difficulties in life. Most of the parents are workers and farmers who cannot afford to pay fees for their children to be tutored after school, especially in English. Besides, being illiterate, they are unable to assist their children in their studies. Most of the children live with their grandparents because their parents work far away. Some children are orphans. The sisters not only tutor the children in their main subjects but also share their valuable knowledge and, through various activities, teach them how to take care of themselves, behave well and interact with others. Soon they become more joyful, active, and confident. Their parents feel happy and grateful to see their children growing up well.



Nam is a third grader who was hyperactive and had behavior problems. His father has been working away from home for 6 years without any contact and his mother works all day to support the family. Often he was left alone or with his grandmother after school. Hearing about the special teaching program of the Sisters, his mother requested Nam to be taken at our study center. After a few months, Nam made remarkable progress: he is behaving well and is more confident and creative in team work. His grandmother is very happy to see how her grandson is growing up. On behalf of the students and their families, the Sisters of Chu community would like to express their thanks to you, the benefactors and the Sisters for your generous support and encouragement in our mission of serving the poor. May God bless and grant you good health, joy and peace.

Le Thi Kim Cuong RNDM

YOUNG RESEARCHERS AT THE SCIENCE LAB - INDIA SOUTH

Amalapuram School in Kerala is a high school where the staff and students face the challenges of today's education system because of the lack of a well-equipped science laboratory. Although the school was established some years ago, it still did not have a good science lab for the practical classes of the students.

With this project grant, we were able to purchase advanced laboratory apparatus like microscopes, spectrophotometers, chemicals and other lab requirements necessary for conducting various experiments. We were also able to upgrade the safety measures and facilities to ensure a safer learning environment. With these added facilities and equipment, the students and teachers are eager to go to the science lab and perform their practical classes that enhance their concentration and new learning.



The project has helped the students to improve their academic performance. The upgraded facilities encourage the students to benefit from these practical classes and more students get better learning opportunities.

The advanced equipment has opened up avenues for students to research projects, fostering a culture of scientific inquiry and innovation thus making their learning more interesting. We are grateful to all our donors and benefactors for their valuable contribution to this project.

Oliva Saldana RNDM



If you wish to support our projects, please use contacts below or visit our website

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