



# Good Sams

## FOUNDATION

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION

— REFUGE —  
— EDUCATION —  
— HOPE —



### FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

This year the Sisters of the Good Samaritan celebrate 160 years of life, mission and service to the people of Australia. It is a time when we look back with gratitude to those courageous women who came before us and give thanks for the support we have received over these many years.

In 2017 we also look to the future. In September, Sisters from Australia, Japan, Kiribati and the Philippines will gather together in Chapter to discern the direction of the Congregation over the coming years. As part of the discernment, a new leadership team will be decided upon by the Congregation.

As my term as Congregational Leader draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported the Good Samaritan Foundation since its initial establishment in Brisbane and more recently in Sydney. We are thankful for the generosity of so many people who are touched by the Good Samaritan story and make the continuation of our ministries possible – whether through volunteering, donating, fundraising or by simply holding our work in their prayers. This continued support fills us all with hope as we continue our Good Sam journey.

*May we rejoice in all the blessings we have been given and the joys received.*

In Christ,

**Sr Clare Condon** SGS  
Board Chair

## CELEBRATING 160 YEARS

OF THE SISTERS OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

In 1857, in a former goal on Sydney's Pitt St, five women donned the habit and began their religious formation. They were to become to Sisters of the Good Samaritan – or Good Sams – the first congregation of religious women to be established on Australian soil.

From the beginning, the Sisters were called to provide direct assistance to the needy, focusing on caring for destitute women and children. Dressed in their heavy woollen habits, they would walk many miles each day to bring food, essentials and comfort to those most in need.

Good Sams understood the important role education could play in transforming lives. With energy and initiative, they committed to building and staffing orphanages and schools. At their height, there were over 100 Good Samaritan schools in Australia including in NSW, QLD and SA.

By the early years of the new century, the Sisters had been called to minister in locations across Sydney and to remote towns and communities including Charters Towers, Warren, Kerang and to the mining towns of Port Pirie and Whyalla.

In 1948, Good Sams were called to Japan to help victims of the Nagasaki bombing. The Sisters who departed from Australia spoke no Japanese. They did not know what challenges lay ahead or if they would ever return home. Nevertheless, they set out with characteristic pragmatism and courage, setting up a clinic, a school and other ministries.

Later the Sisters were called to ministry in the Pacific, establishing programs in



Header image: Good Samaritan convent, Pitt Street, 1901; The 'Motor Mission', Dee Why, 1962; Sr Canisius Whittton, Japan dispensary c1950.

Kiribati, the Philippines and Timor Leste.

Today there are close to 230 Good Sams Sisters in Australia, Japan, Philippines and Kiribati. Although fewer women are choosing religious life, the Sisters are determined ensure their work in service of the needy continues, in line with the Charism and founding parable, to be "as neighbour" to those in need.

### Who is my neighbour...?

Many caring individuals, school communities, corporate supporters and parishes support Sisters of the Good Samaritan ministries through the Good Samaritan Foundation. We are also grateful to our corporate supporters including Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers, W.N. Bull Funerals, Proust Optical Figtree and more. Turn over to read about some of the programs that were supported during the past 12 months. →



"The assistance from everyone and support cannot be put into words. I am deeply touched with the compassion and kindness by all. Thank you all."  
-Former guest



"I would recommend this service to other mothers who find themselves in need of accommodation and support during the early years of their children's lives and would love to see more services like this."  
-Resident

## GOOD SAMARITAN INN MELBOURNE

More than 400 women and children fleeing family violence and homelessness were provided with safe accommodation at the Good Samaritan Inn in 2016. Donations provide much needed funds to help keep the Inn open by covering a significant portion of the day to day expenses. School donations ensure each new arrival receives a welcome pack containing clean pyjamas, toothbrushes and other essentials.

In May, Manager Christine Abson was delighted to announce the receipt of new funding from DHHS Victoria to provide an additional program for families recovering from domestic violence. The program, which will be run in partnership with 'Adventure Works,' will include Bush Adventure Therapy for adolescent boys who have witnessed violence against their mother and resilience days for women making big changes for themselves and their families.

## GOOD SAMARITAN HOUSING

BRISBANE

The vision and mission of Good Samaritan Housing as a place of welcome for vulnerable mums with children up to four years old is increasingly clear. Community Coordinator Joanne Davies encourages, supports and advocates for the young mums during their time in the program. Each family is transitioned to affordable and suitable housing in the wider community as their time draws to an end.

Donations received through the Good Samaritan Foundation and the support from the Good Sams Congregation are essential in covering basic operating costs. Generous donations from Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor's Christmas Appeal, Transurban Community grants, Lourdes Hill College and local groups continued to fund resident programs throughout 2016.

## GOOD SAMs IN THE PHILIPPINES

The new school year is just beginning in the Philippines. Good Sams provide pre-school education for 150 children in the poorest communities of Bacolod. The children also receive a nutritious meal each day.

Meanwhile, the Good Sams Outreach Centre is now offering

scholarships to support children from year 1 and up to complete their primary education. The children receive funds to cover their enrolment fees, clothing, books, transport and a rice allowance. Skills training programs are offered to the parents with the aim of delivering new opportunities and breaking the cycle of poverty.



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
It is estimated that  
**1 in 3**  
of all children aged below 18 (13.4 million) are living below the poverty line in the Philippines.

Left: Good Sams feeding program, the Boulevard. Below: Sewing is just one of the skills taught at the Good Sams Outreach Centre.



# EDUCATION AND HOPE IN TIMOR LESTE



Top: Sr Rita with recent scholarship recipients.  
Left: Scholarship alumni give a practical lesson.



Sr Rita Hayes oversees the Good Sams Timor Leste scholarship program which provides support to students in the remote, mountainous district of Railaco. Sr Rita traveled to Railaco in March this year to pay scholarship fees for 102 university and senior secondary students.

Sr Rita said; "My delight knew no bounds when Adelina, a mother of six from the remote village of Samalete, came to show us her Diploma in Law! Another graduate has just completed her Degree in Engineering with Honours in Civil Engineering and is now working on a major water project and road upgrade in Railaco. A further three students are currently nearing completion of a Petroleum Engineering Degree; one is doing medicine; another Petroleum Geology and Technology. Many students are taking IT degrees and others Business Studies and Economics."

"Without the provision of scholarships these successes would not be happening. These are poor, mountain village children and a scholarship gives them motivation, financial relief and belief in themselves," said Sr Rita.

## GOOD SAMARITAN EDUCATION GRANTS

These grants provide support for secondary students experiencing particular hardship. Since 2015, twenty-five students have been supported with over \$75,000 in grants awarded. The average amount awarded is \$4,000.

Grant recipients come from a range of circumstances including recent arrival as a refugee, parental illness and living in out of home care. Families tell us these grants make an enormous difference and thanks to the very generous support of individual and corporate donors, the program will continue to grow in 2018.

"I would like to say thank you for this grant and encourage continuation of the grants to support others in need."  
-Student

"Due to the demands of many children in my family and lack of money, it has been a constant struggle to get through even the minor purchases, such as a school bag or senior uniform. We are so appreciative of this support."  
-Mother



## COMPUTERS FOR KIRIBATI

In the remote Pacific nation of Kiribati, Sisters of the Good Samaritan are engaged in a range of ministries including education, outreach to people with disabilities and more. Srs Kakare Biita, Tibwau Matia and Tuata Terewete run the Early Education Centre in the local village of Abaokoro, catering for children aged 3 to 5 years. The children learn in both Kiribati and English.

In May this year, five Good Sam sisters from Australia visited the centre, bringing new computers and equipment purchased through the fundraising efforts of Good Samaritan Colleges. The

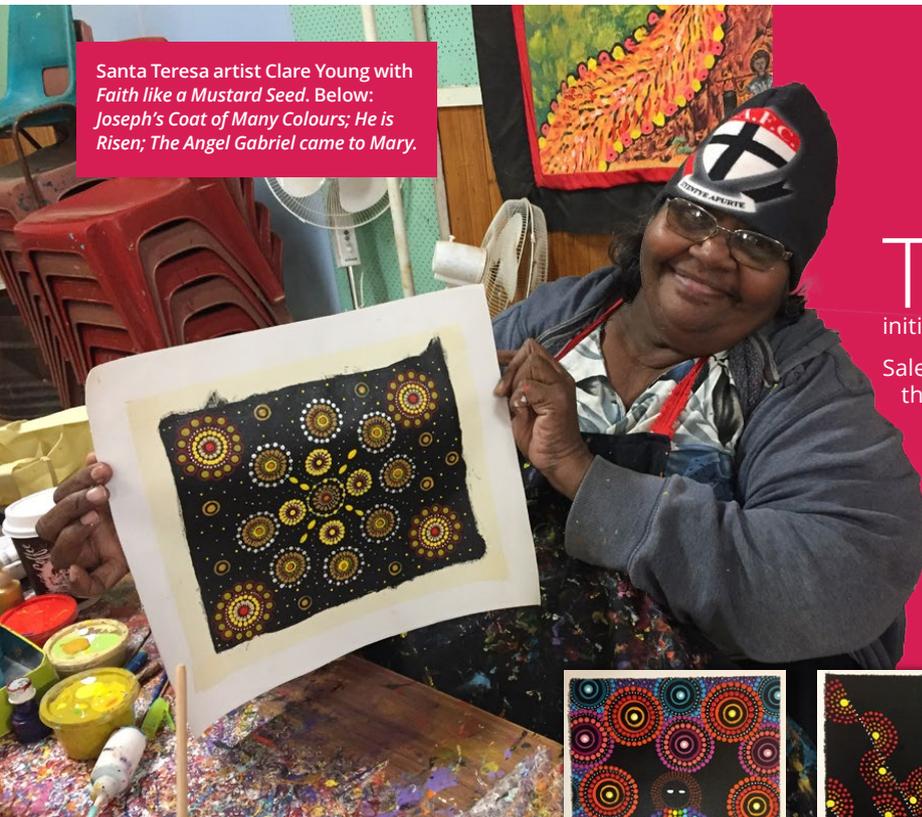
sisters carried the equipment more than 4,500 km to Abaokoro, the last leg by canoe. This gift, carried by hand, is an indicator of the powerful bond of friendship that extends all the way from Australia to this small village.

"We have never had new computers before and are so grateful for this support, which will enable us to better assist the children and help others in need in the community," said Sr Kakare.

Sr Geraldine celebrates with an Abaokoro student.



Santa Teresa artist Clare Young with *Faith like a Mustard Seed*. Below: *Joseph's Coat of Many Colours*; *He is Risen*; *The Angel Gabriel came to Mary*.



## SANTA TERESA (LTYENTYE APURTE)

The Good Sams connection to the Santa Teresa Aboriginal community, 85 km east of Alice Springs, dates back nearly ten years. One important focus is on supporting the initiatives of the women in their community Art Centre.

Sales of the beautiful crosses and scarves painted in the unique Santa Teresa style provides income for community members and helps facilitate the sharing of important cultural knowledge.

In July 2017 a translation of the Holy Bible in the local indigenous language of Arrente was launched in Alice Springs. The artists of Santa Teresa have provided illustrations of 12 of their favourite Bible stories to accompany the publication. We have printed a few here for you to enjoy!



## THANK YOU!

In 2016, over \$400,000 was raised in support of Good Sams ministries and this was allocated *in full* towards programs of support. In the hands of the Sisters, these funds make an enormous difference.

If you would like more information about how you can support the ministries through making a one-off or regular donation, volunteering, organising a fundraiser or including a gift in your will, please don't hesitate to get in touch with

us. Alternatively, please consider sharing this newsletter with others who may be interested in hearing about the Good Sams work.

Thank you for your support!

Sisters of the Good Samaritan Foundation  
2 Avenue RD GLEBE NSW 2037  
PO Box 1076 GLEBE NSW 2037  
Tel 02 8752 5313  
info@goodsamsfoundation.org.au  
facebook.com/goodsamsfoundationAus  
[www.goodsamsfoundation.org.au](http://www.goodsamsfoundation.org.au)

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan Foundation is a registered charity and a deductible gift recipient (DGR 1.) Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

ABN 54169799606

