

2023 SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT



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Message from the Chair

Dear Valued Donors and Supporters,

2023 was a year of change at the Good Sams Foundation. Our respected and long-standing Chair Katrina Flynn came to the end of her term, and I stepped from Deputy Chair into the Chairperson's role. We also appointed Sonya Mears as Executive Director. Sonya brings with her a background that combines both corporate and not for profit experience.

Sustainable Growth:

Building on the solid foundation created by Katrina and our board we defined a new three-year strategic plan, a blueprint for sustainable growth across 2024-2027. The Good Samaritan Foundation was established in 1999 to provide ongoing finances and resources to the work established by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. Looking into the future I am very aware of the Foundation's commitment to carrying on the spirit of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. We are making sure that we represent the charism of the Sisters and their long history of partnerships and connections in various parts of the community so that their acts of compassion and goodwill continues long into the future.

Due to the increased costs of living and the high incidence and intergenerational impacts of poverty in the areas we serve, demand for Good Sams Foundation's programs is continuing to rise as our disbursements. Comparing 2018 against 2023, our disbursements have increased by 129%. Our ministries are growing and thriving, and we are fortunate to have a community of Good Samaritans working with us to support that growth.

We hosted three significant events in 2023 to personally thank our donor and benefactor community. Receptions with the Governors of NSW and Victoria at their respective Government Houses and a high tea at Admiralty House marked the 1165th anniversary of the Congregation.

Program Management:

Sonya Mears has been actively engaged in understanding the services we support. In 2024, she visited Timor Leste and the Philippines to gain firsthand insight into the ongoing needs of these communities.

Acknowledgements:

We deeply appreciate the support of our patrons across 2023 - Sir William Deane AC, KBE, KC as Patron in Chief, and the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC. A special thank you to Sr. Catherine McCahill and our outgoing Chair, Katrina Flynn, for their guidance and support. Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated board members. Their selfless contributions of time, wisdom, and passion have been instrumental in achieving our goals. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.

Warm regards,

Martin Slattery

Chair Good Sams Foundation

About the Good Sams Foundation

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict was the first congregation of religious women formed in Australia. For over 165 years the sisters have been inspired by the Rule of St Benedict and the Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10: 25-37. They have committed themselves to active lives of charitable ministries.

The Good Sams Foundation's was established in 1999 to ensure the spirit of the Sisters' ministries continues into the future. The Sisters ministries and partnership programs span Australia - including remote and Indigenous communities - Timor Leste, the Philippines, and Kiribati.

The Foundation supports marginalised and vulnerable women and children who maybe escaping family violence and/or living in deep and persistent poverty.

We focus on women because they are key drivers of change in their communities and also on children because they are unable to remove themselves from harm's way.

Our programs provide a regular meal and a warm and safe place to sleep. They also offer a chance for life-changing education and skills-based knowledge.

Good Sams Foundation's Disbursements

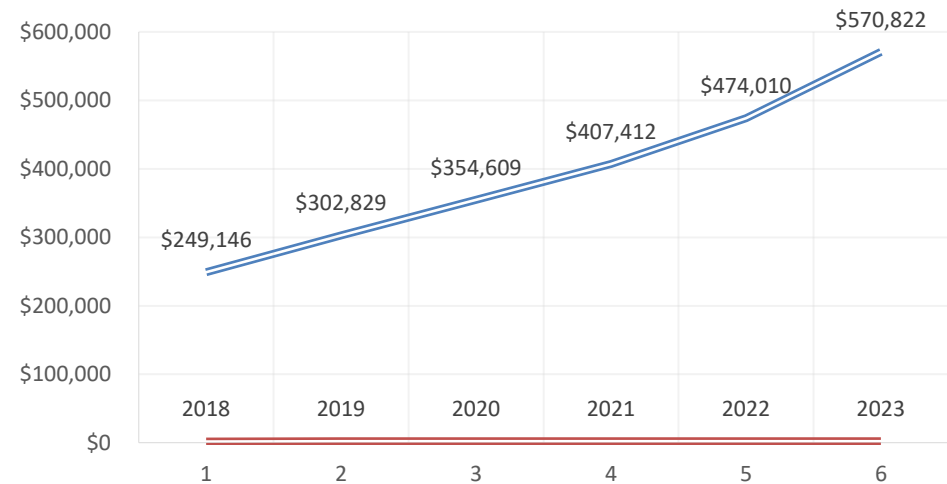
Rising Disbursements

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Audited Accounts

Our 2023 audited accounts are [available here](#)

GOOD SAMS FOUNDATION DISBURSEMENTS 2018-23



Purpose – Impact - Values



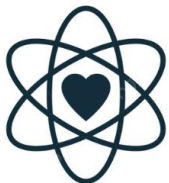
PURPOSE

Connecting the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and their community of oblates, partners, staff, volunteers and supporters to create a safe and sustainable future for women and children in need.



IMPACT

Vulnerable women and children have pathways to education and improved well-being.



VALUES

The Good Samaritan Foundation's staff, CEO, volunteers Board and sub-committees follow the core values of St Benedict's Rule and the kindness and compassion of the Good Samaritan parable. Luke 10:25-37

Statement for protecting human rights

The Good Samaritan Foundation is a registered charity that supports vulnerable women and children experiencing deep and persistent poverty and/or who are impacted by family violence, food insecurity and lack of access to a quality education in Australia and marginalised regions in the Philippines, Timor Leste and Kiribati.

Our primary focus is on women and children however we do not discriminate on gender, age, race, sexual identity, religion, poverty, socio-economic status or disability. **The Good Samaritan Foundation** is committed to respecting, protecting, and promoting the economic, social and cultural rights as outlined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976).

In keeping with the Covenant, **The Good Samaritan Foundation** commits to ensuring that participants in our programs, our staff, volunteers and suppliers have:

1. the right to work in just and favourable conditions;
2. the right to social protection, to an adequate standard of living and to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental well-being;
3. the right to education and the enjoyment of benefits of cultural freedom.

The Good Samaritan Foundation's overarching goal is to build a secure and sustainable future for women and children in distress, reflecting its commitment to promoting and recognising human rights for all. The Foundation stands for equal protection against abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Our Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a call for action by all countries and a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet now and in the future.

The Good Samaritan Foundation's ministries contribute to six of the goals:-

1. no poverty,
2. zero hunger,
3. good health and well-being,
4. quality education,
5. gender equality and
6. reduced inequality.



Good Sams Foundation's Social Impact

The Good Sams Foundation defines social impact as the effect on people and communities that happens as a result of our ministries and partner programs.

We quantify and qualify our measures of Social Impact around -

- Defining who benefits from our ministries and programs;
- Knowing how many people benefit;
- Understanding how people benefit; and
- Ensuring our programs are sustainable in the long term.



Australia – High School Scholarship Program

Secondary education - the problem we are solving

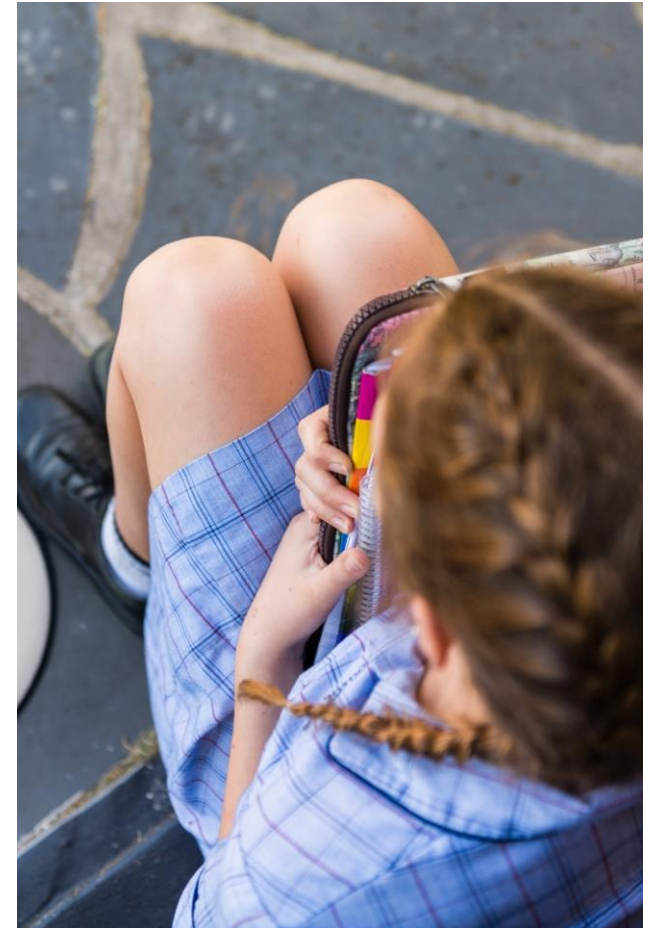
In Australia, socioeconomic status remains a key factor in school completion. By age 19, only 61% of the most disadvantaged students have completed Year 12, compared with 89% of the most advantaged students (Lamb et al. 2015).

The final years of high school are a time when decisions about future education and career pathways are made in line with a student's personal goals and strengths. When these years are disrupted by economic hardship due to family trauma – such as serious parental health issues, retrenchment, family violence or divorce - students can experience depression, anxiety, lack of concentration, lethargy and poor sleep hygiene. These behaviours place them at risk of non-completion of year 12.

Young people without an education are considered 'at risk'. In 2022, the National Skills Commission found more than nine out of ten new jobs to be created in the next five years will require post-secondary qualifications.

The Gonski Institute for Education sites several studies that demonstrate the success of scholarship programs. Three significant research papers the Institute draws on include Reed & Hurd (2014), Carson (2010) and Zacharias et al.'s (2016). Reed and Hurd concluded that recipients in their study reported that “receiving financial assistance in the form of a scholarship reduced stress, boosted morale and gave them more time to study”.

This opinion closely matches the content of the feedback forms we receive from the students graduating for our **Good Samaritan Foundation's** Australian Educational Scholarship program.



Australia - High School Scholarship Program

Good Sams Foundation's - contribution to the solution

GSF's Australian Scholarship Program addresses the problem of educational inequity by offering a scholarship to families who are unable to continue to pay for their young person's continued education at their current Good Samaritan College.

This intervention relieves the stress on families and mitigates the risk of students disengaging from school at a critical stage of their education (Years 11 and 12). The Scholarship Program's aim is to support financially disadvantaged students to complete the Higher School Certificate so that they have a range of career options and a pathway to life-long learning.

A Department of Education Report* advises that when students have strong teacher-student relationships, feel challenged, value school, put effort into their learning, participate in school and display positive behaviors, they are more likely to complete Year 12 than their peers who are disengaged from their school life and their studies.

The outcome of the Good Samaritan's Education Scholarship is that senior secondary students are supported to complete their HSC in a secure, faith-based environment.

**Source: Supporting school completion:
The importance of engagement and effective teaching*

Social Impact – who benefits and how they benefit

Students: Scholarship students are offered a high quality, free or subsidised, Catholic education.

On average the program offers scholarships to twenty year 11 and 12 students per year, who do not have the funds to continue their studies in their current Good Samaritan College. The Good Samaritan Scholarship Program ensures there is a minimum of disruption to students preparing for the Higher School Certificate (HSC). Relationships with friends, teachers and staff, the people who form a student's supportive network, remain in place. Once the student graduates, they can access educational opportunities and career choices that may have been unattainable if they left school before graduating from Year 12.

Families: A high school scholarship eases a disadvantaged family's financial burden and the stress associated with debt. Up to AU\$10,000 per year is available for school fees and associated costs per scholarship student. The funds provide a family with dignity and hope so that parent/child relationships and relationships within the family and outside the home are improved.

The School Community: School scholarships play a crucial role in promoting diversity and inclusiveness in a school. They help ensure that higher education is accessible to everyone. This diversity fosters a more equitable learning environment for the school community.

The Broader Community: In a community populated by educated residents welfare and healthcare costs are reduced and shared knowledge increases. By enabling students to continue with their academic studies, these scholarships ensure students, regardless of their economic circumstances have the opportunity to become participants in a highly educated and skilled workforce that actively contributes to their community's economic growth.

The Philippines

Education – the problem we are solving

Children from low socio-economic backgrounds in the Philippines don't have the same access to early childhood education (ECE) as their more fortunate peers. This can place them in a cycle of poverty, welfare dependence, incarceration, and shortened life expectancy.

The Philippine's education system faces two significant challenges that prevent many Filipinos from accessing free education for primary and secondary school - poverty and lack of resources.

Poverty

According to a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), there is a strong correlation between education and poverty reduction. The study found that increasing access to education can lead to better employment opportunities and higher income levels that ultimately lead to poverty reduction.

In 2023, The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that 25.24 million people in the Philippines were living in poverty. Education becomes an unaffordable luxury, when you are struggling to pay for food and shelter. In low socio-economic families, it's not uncommon for school aged children to be required to work full time to support the family unit and so the cycle of intergenerational poverty continues.

Lack of Resources

The Philippines Department of Education advises that around 5,000 schools have no access to electricity, while 10,000 have no access to running water. School classrooms are inadequate. Textbooks, and teaching materials are scarce and of poor quality. Teachers find their role as educators challenging and as a result children's learning outcomes are impacted.

The Good Sams Foundation is working to secure funding for disadvantaged children and youth to access quality education. Educational qualifications will ensure that that they will have the opportunity to reach their full potential and are able to contribute to the development of their families and communities.



The Philippines - Kinder School

Good Sams Foundation's – contribution to the solution

For twenty years, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan's Kinder School in the Philippines has been offering a free or heavily subsidised, high quality, education to vulnerable children aged 4-6 years old whose families are unable to fund their kindergarten fees. In 2007 the school became licensed and for the past 17 years has followed the mandate of the Philippines Department of Education.

All teachers are trained to meet or exceed the required academic qualifications and have access to quality teaching aids and text books. The facility has purpose-built classrooms, electricity, running water, toilets, teaching aids, books, outdoor play equipment and a small outdoor performance stage. Classrooms and grounds are maintained by support staff and parents.

The Kinder school's curriculum covers English language lessons, literacy, numeracy, art and performance, healthy habits, public speaking and social skills. Due to weather conditions, the school year in the Philippines runs from August to June.

Because nutrition positively affects students' cognitive development, attendance and overall performance, every child at the Sisters of the Good Samaritan's Kinder School receives a complimentary lunch time meal.

Textbooks and uniforms are subsidised so that students are not disadvantaged by their family's financial circumstance.

Social Impact – who benefits and how they benefit

Children:

A high quality, free, Catholic education for 120 kindergarten students - aged 4-6 years from financially disadvantaged families. Early childhood education improves a child's ability to self regulate and their chances to progress through to the completion of high school and university and to secure employment.

Staff:

3 qualified and skilled Filipino teachers are employed at the Sisters of the Good Samaritan Kinder School. School Director – Qualified: Master of Arts, Early Childhood Teacher – Qualified: Master of Arts, Early Childhood Teacher – Qualified: Bachelor of Elementary Education and 6 x administration and grounds team staff. The staff have access to clean amenities including purpose fit out class –rooms and a multi room staff area with a kitchen and recreational room.

Families:

The program has an Intergenerational impact on a family's chances of breaking the poverty cycle. The children's families receive a Kinder School fee saving per student, of AU\$1,000 per year – covering the cost of tuition, meals and books.

Community:

The Kinder School contributes to the social and economic growth of vulnerable people, living in deep and persistent poverty in the Holy Family Parish – located at Barangay Taculing, Bacolod City. Early Childhood education nurtures a positive sense of identity in young children. It strengthens their interest and skills and supports them to become active and knowledgeable contributors to their community.

The Philippines – Educational Scholarships

Good Sams Foundation’s – contribution to the solution

To ensure continuity of education, the Good Sams Foundation provides scholarships to graduates of the Good Samaritan Kinder School and other scholars from nearby squatter areas. Our scholarships cover various costs, including fees for elementary, secondary, and tertiary education, uniforms, textbooks, internet, and travel expenses.

The tertiary institutions our students attend align with their career aspirations. Currently, we have students enrolled at Bacolod City College, Carlos Hilado Memorial State University, University of Negros Occidental – Recoletos, John B. Lacson College Inc., Visayan Maritime Academy, University of St. La Salle, Riverside College Inc., and Colegio San Agustin - Bacolod.

Scholarship students are encouraged to use the facilities at our Bacolod Outreach Centre, where they have access to free Wi-Fi and meals. At the Outreach Centre, they can discuss the economic, emotional, and spiritual assistance they need to complete their studies with our qualified support staff, Sisters Anne and Grace. Sister Anne is a qualified teacher, and Sister Grace is completing a Master's in Social Work.

Social Impact – who benefits and how they benefit

Students:

A high quality, free and supportive education for 40 Elementary students, 29 High school students aged 13-18 and 59 university students per year.

The total number of students in **The Good Sams Foundation’s** Secondary and Tertiary scholarship program in 2023 was 88.

Secondary and tertiary education reduces the likelihood of teenage pregnancy, depression, youth crime and dependency on welfare. It gives individuals a greater sense of self discipline and management and provides a pathway to employment and a reliable income.

Families:

The provision of education scholarships to alleviate financial stress and a saving of P20,650 a year (AU\$590) per year for High School students and P80,000 (AU\$2290) per student for University fees - covering the cost of tuition, snacks, books and uniforms.

Community:

The Scholarship program contributes to the social and economic growth of vulnerable people, living in deep and persistent poverty in the Holy Family Parish - located at Brangay Taculing, Bacolod City. A community that is well educated benefits from a higher sense of unity and trust so crime and gender-based violence reduces and local district knowledge around solutions to address community issues increases.

Timor Leste

Education - the problem we are solving

Timor-Leste, one of the world's newest nations, has been rebuilding its entire education system since it was destroyed during the country's violent struggle for independence in 2002.

While progress has been made, significant challenges remain, including a lack of quality facilities, school disengagement, language diversity, untrained staff, and a limited number of schools in rural areas. According to the United Nations, 42% of Timor-Leste's population currently lives below the national poverty line. Economic disadvantages start early, as children in remote regions miss the opportunity for a quality education. In secondary and tertiary education, money is a key issue, but for marginalized families in remote areas, transportation is also a major hurdle.

The country lacks a public transport system, and traveling on foot in the heat requires long hours of physical exertion. Most of the population has no consistent income, and even students graduating from secondary school face a lack of job opportunities in the country.



Timor Leste - Secondary Scholarships

Rural, Secondary Education - Railaco

Railaco is situated within the Timorese district of Ermera. The Timor Leste Ministry of Finance and Unicef calculate that the district of Ermera, has the country's highest headcount of poverty – 75%.

As a rural district, Railaco is resource poor and a low socio-economic region that has had a history of challenges with education. Over 35% of youth living in rural regions in Timor Leste are illiterate, compared to just 6 percent in urban areas.

While poverty (deprivation) is a major barrier to education, there are others including a shortage of trained teachers, system inefficiency, inadequate classroom facilities, no drinking water or toilets at schools and often a parental preference for young people to work and support the family income rather than study.

Good Sams Foundation's contribution to the solution

Secondary Scholarships

The **Good Samaritan Foundation** offers educational scholarships to disadvantaged year 10 - 12 students living in rural Railaco to support them to complete their studies at the local secondary college – Nossef.

Good Samaritan Sister – Sr Rita Hayes, helped to launch and build Nossef in 2004. From the beginning the school has had a strong track record of achievement. In 2023 the school achieved a 100% pass rate in the national examinations.

Good Samaritan Foundation scholarship students at Nossef gain knowledge that comes not only from textbooks and trained teaching staff, they are also taught life-skills that include resilience and interpersonal communications. And because the school is local, travel is less of a barrier to attendance.

Social Impact – who benefits and how they benefit

Students:

A high quality, free and supportive education for 63 high school students aged 16-18 per year. Unicef data suggests that on average, one more year of education brings a 10 per cent increase in an individual's earnings. Each additional year is associated with an 18 per cent higher gross domestic product per capita.

Families:

Educating even one member of a family has intergenerational flow-on benefits to the family in the transfer of knowledge. For the 63 families benefitting from a **Good Sams Foundation** Scholarship their young person's education is free of charge. That represents a saving of AU\$127 per student per year.

Community:

Having people in the community who are educated, empowers small communities to understand and discuss local issues and to advocate for their own needs. Education provides a family and a community with resources – literacy, numeracy, reasoning, knowledge. These skills empower community members to participate in public life.

Timor Leste - Tertiary Scholarships

Good Sams Foundation's contribution to the solution

Tertiary Scholarships for Nossef Students

Nossef graduates who wish to continue to tertiary studies apply to the Good Samaritan Foundation for entry into our Tertiary Scholarship Program.

The Good Sams Foundation's scholarship funds tertiary fees and offers a cost-of-living allowance to 10 to 12 new students per year, who have passed their entry exams to study at either university or teachers' college.

To ensure quality of education, Good Sams Foundation tertiary scholars who choose to train as teachers, attend the teacher education institute (ISJB). Across three years students can complete a Diploma or Degree program with a major in teaching English, Portuguese or Religious Education. In 2019, the Mathematics department was introduced into the academic program.

Scholars choosing university studies attend UNTL (locally named - Universidade Nasionál Timór Lorosa'e). UNTL is a public university in Timor-Leste, the only one of its kind in the country. With six campuses, nine colleges and seven research centers. It is the largest Timorese university in terms of the number of students, university professors and budget.

Student's attendance and commitment to study is monitored and only those passing their end of year exams continue to receive ongoing scholarship funding.

Student scholarship funds are administered on the ground by Alola Foundation – Timor Leste - to ensure all monies are disbursed correctly.

Social Impact – who benefits and how they benefit

Students:

A high quality, free tertiary education at the highly regarded tertiary institutions - ISJB and UNTL .

In 2023 we had 49 students in our scholarship program.

Tertiary education is a stepping-stone to securing a career, increasing income and breaking the cycle of poverty.

Families:

A saving to the family budget of AU\$454 per student per year for ISJB (Teachers College) and AU\$90 per year for UNTL (university) students. Plus an AU\$550 contribution to the students cost of living per year.

Community:

The Scholarship program contributes to the social and economic wellbeing of the community. Tertiary educated scholars contribute to the vitality of their community and help build tolerant and inclusive societies. The scholarship also makes a contribution to the broader region by addressing the shortage of trained teachers.

Kiribati

Regional Overview

Kiribati is a sovereign state in the central Pacific Ocean. There are approximately 110,000 people scattered over its 33 islands, although only 21 of the islands are inhabited. More than half the population of Kiribati live on the islands of Tarawa, the country's capital.

Kiribati's people are Micronesian, and although English is the country's official language, the large majority of the population speak Gilbertese.

The country's economy benefits from copra and fish exports, seaweed farming, foreign fishing licensing fees, tourism, as well as developmental aid and remittances from family overseas.

The islands of Kiribati are vulnerable to changes in climate, including rising sea levels, increasing temperatures, and rainfall. Climate impacts almost all aspects of life in Kiribati.

The islands are all sand bars – they have no soil or mineral resources and the only food that can be grown and harvested is the coconut. Kiribati has limited medical facilities, no television, and few cars. In the more remote islands there is no electricity.

Data from the Asian Development Bank demonstrates that a significant portion of Kiribati's population lives below the national poverty line and are struggling to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare costs. Poverty in Kiribati comes with other challenges such as lack of adequate infrastructure, limited access to clean water and toilets, and vulnerability to rising sea levels. And while the Government of Kiribati has made a commitment to foster an educated, skilled, and employable population, unemployment is high and poverty affects the children's health, nutrition and educational outcomes.

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan have had a presence in Kiribati for over 30 years and today there are 2 communities one in Abaokoro and other at Temaiku.



Kiribati - Kinder School

The Problem and the solution

Despite the government's focus on education, there are concerns about the children's levels of literacy and numeracy achievement across Kiribati and particularly on the remote islands.

Results from the latest Pacific Island Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA) in 2015 indicate that at the regional level, more than half of students in years 4 and 6 across the Pacific have still not achieved reading comprehension. Findings from the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) in Kiribati in 2017 demonstrate that at grade 3, 13 percent of students still have a zero score in reading comprehension.

In the region, most schools at primary (six years of study, beginning at age six) and junior secondary level (three years of study beginning at age 12) are public schools. Senior secondary education (four years of study, beginning at age 15) is mainly provided by non-state schools that are subsidised by the state. Education is free and compulsory for nine years, covering children aged 6-15. **However early childhood care and education (ECCE) is not.** Increasingly, global evidence has demonstrated the importance of children's experiences before school, and so more recently, Kiribati has worked towards prioritising the provision, quality, and monitoring of early childhood care and education (ECCE) services across the country.

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan are contributing to the solution with a pre-school for children aged 3-6 on the islet of Abaokoro on North Tarawa. Opened in 2009, the pre-school provides small children with vital and high-quality educational experiences through social interaction, play and creative arts. The young students are encouraged to explore topics such as health, hygiene, nutrition and care for the environment.

Social Impact – who benefits: Children / Families / Community

Children:

70 children attend the pre-school each year. In a population census on early childhood in Kiribati, undertaken in 2017, the results demonstrated that preschool 'has a clear and consistent positive influence on children's development'. The positive difference it makes are significant to children's approaches to learning, cultural knowledge, social and emotional skills and early literacy and mathematical skills.

Families:

To alleviate financial stress the cost of attendance at the Sisters of the Good Samaritan Kindergarten at Abaokoro is kept to a minimum and is often paid by 'in kind' services. Parents volunteer their time to work at the school. Volunteer hours are seen in a positive light by parents. They are an achievable way of paying for school fees and maintaining dignity.

Community:

As part of their ministries to the local community the Sisters of the Good Samaritan at Abaokoro also run English classes for students at the local primary and junior secondary schools. They have also introduced a composting toilet to the community – a safe, waterless and environmentally-friendly response to a growing problem throughout Kiribati – sanitation.

Our Ministries

FOOD SECURITY

Australia | Philippines



Philippines

The problem – food insecurity

In the 2020 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report written by the United Nations affiliate – the Food and Agriculture Organisation - the Philippines was noted as having the highest number of food insecure people in Southeast Asia. The report stated that 59 million Filipinos were suffering from moderate to severe lack of consistent access to food. These numbers do not show signs of improvement.

The increasing population in the Philippines, limited resources and the fact that the poorest among the population live in regions prone to natural disasters means that hunger is a continuing challenge.

When a community has a prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) – meaning lack of access to adequate food - it has intergenerational impacts on livelihoods, health and the education of its residents. PoU results in increased levels of criminal activity, inequality, gender-based violence, high infant mortality rates, and child abuse.



Philippines

Food Security – the solution

In the Philippines, on the island of Negros, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan have established a food delivery program that offers residents living in the squatter settlements of Boulevard and Mambuloc, and low income adults and youth working in the streets of Bacolod a reliable safety net to guard against malnutrition and hunger.

Each week the Sisters and their local team of assistants, prepare and cook nutritious meals in their Outreach Kitchen. The meals are then delivered by a food van into the hands of the people who need it most.

As an added benefit to the food security program, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan's Outreach Kitchen offers paid employment and training to a team of 14 local women. The all-female team, learn food preparation and food hygiene, plus conversational English skills.

Social Impact

Who benefits: Disadvantaged Children / Youth / Families / Communication

How they benefit

Squatter Communities:

470 meals are served per day – 3 times per week.

Street Dwellers:

200 meals are served, once a week to a wide range of people on the streets of Bacolod, including people working outdoors and children not at school.

Families and Communities:

Children living in low socio-economic households are often shielded from food insecurity as much as the family is able.

Across the world women are the most likely to be impacted.

A healthy diet increases the quality of family life and improves community wellbeing. Good nutrition enables concentration, memory, learning and emotional intelligence.

Poor nutrition, wastes human potential and slows down productivity and innovation – building blocks for a prosperous community.

Australia

Food Security – the Problem

In remote Western Australia, The Good Sams Foundation supports a breakfast club for indigenous high school students. These students face significant challenges, ranging from food insecurity and family violence to parental absence.

Hunger is a constant issue that often prevents these children from attending school. Two thirds of Australian teachers report that children come to school hungry or without having eaten breakfast. Teachers estimate that the average student loses more than 2 hours a day of learning time when they arrive at school hungry.

A sad truth is that hungry children are more likely to have lower academic performance, with 73% of teachers noting that students who come to school hungry are more likely to be lethargic, have difficulty concentrating, and exhibit behavioural issues (Foodbank, 2022).

Ensuring these students have access to nutritious meals is crucial for their academic success and overall well-being.

The Solution

The Good Sams Foundation's sponsorship of breakfast programs in Western Australia helps address the immediate nutritional needs for indigenous and rural students.

By providing a stable start to each day we aim to foster an environment where every child has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Social Impact

Who benefits:

Approximately 100 students at Mt Magnet District High School benefited from the Good Sams Foundation's support of the breakfast program in 2023.

The breakfast clubs ensure that children start their school day well-nourished, enabling them to focus and engage in their studies. These programs specifically support indigenous children and those in rural communities, providing them with the nutritional intake they need to succeed in their education and beyond.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

**Family Violence Shelter
Victoria, Australia**

**Employment pathways
Victoria, Australia**

**First Nations Sewing Program
Northern Territory, Australia**

**Community Centre
Kiribati**



Australia - Victoria

Family Violence Shelter

The Problem

Domestic and family violence are characterised by abusive and violent behaviour towards a partner, former partner or family member. It can extend beyond physical harm and involves actions that control, humiliate or scare innocent women and children.

1 in 4 (23% or 2.3 million) women have experienced violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15 while 1 in 14 (7.3% or 693,000) men have experienced violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15. (ABS 2023)

Good Sams Foundation's contribution to the solution

The Good Samaritan Inn (GSI) provides refuge accommodation and specialist supports to victim survivors of family violence and homelessness. GSI is a critical part of the Victorian Family Violence Service System and is funded to deliver services by Family Safety Victoria/Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. GSI delivers outreach support to women and children living in the community to ensure they are safe, connected and engaged with local and specialist services.

Apart from 24/7 crisis intervention, emotional support, material aid and advocacy GSI also offers the following programs.

- Garden Therapy Program
- Art Therapy
- Pet Therapy
- Parent and child therapeutic assessments and counselling.

Social Impact

Who benefits - Good Samaritan Inn:
Last year 101 Victorian women and 89 children/young people –victims of family violence –were supported with accommodation at the Good Samaritan Inn.

How they benefit

The Good Samaritan Inn supports its residents to:

- Recover from the trauma of family violence and homelessness.
- Live in a safe environment.
- Regain their personal strength and sense of self.
- Be empowered to make clear and informed decisions about their next steps.

Australia – employment pathways

The Problem

Gender inequality for women is a barrier to sustainable development. It intersects with other factors contributing to disadvantage and marginalization, including race, religion, ethnicity and financial insecurity.

New female migrants, refugees and Asylum Seekers who are also victim survivors of domestic violence and unemployed are vulnerable to multiple layers of discrimination including limited access to support services and unemployment.

Good Sams Foundation's contribution to the solution

To support this group of women, the Good Samaritan Inn launched a new program - Women In Work (WIW).

The Women In Work program has two core activities for its participants – 1. finding and maintaining secure employment and a regular income and 2. a 6-month, one on one coaching program, delivered by family violence specialists.

The aim of the coaching program is to build executive functioning skills that have been lost or inhibited due to trauma. Increased executive functioning skills enable WIW participants to become more self-sufficient by building their confidence to manage the family budget and make informed life decisions.

Social Impact

Who benefits – Good Samaritan Inn:

20 women (predominantly from a migrant or refugee background) have been referred to the Women in Work, employment program since its launch.

The program's coverage area is for women residing in metropolitan Melbourne.

How they benefit:

Close to half the course attendees have secured employment, earning a total of AU\$25,500 in income this year. Overall earning a total of \$245k to date.

Australia – Northern Territory

Intergenerational Sewing Program

The Problem

Ltyentye Apurte is a small first nations community located 81.6km from Alice Springs. Women and girls living in this community struggle with financial hardship, unemployment, emotional and physical abuse, and social isolation.

Good Sams Foundation's Contribution to the Solution

Launched in 2022, as a facilitated, skills-based sewing program to offer indigenous women and girls a safe space to stage private and sensitive conversations. The program was designed at the request of the Aunties of Ltyentye Apurte.

The Intergenerational Sewing Program has three (3) key benefits:-

1. A trained facilitator, who is trusted and respected by the local community, teaches participants to design and produce machine-sewn products for sale and personal use. The program includes sewing curtains, so that young girls have privacy at home, library bags to protect borrowed books, and mobile phone holders designed to suit the needs of the many dialysis patients in the local community who need to have their hands free during medical treatments.
2. The program's facilitator informally trains and encourages course participants to pass their knowledge on to other community members.
3. In a safe and welcoming sewing context, the Intergenerational Sewing Program provides an informal space for Indigenous elders to nurture trusted relationships. The program's creative environment enables elders to speak openly to younger women and girls about deeply personal topics, including the protection of cultural values, domestic violence, financial hardship, and women's rights.

Social Impact

Who benefits:

22 First Nations participants – young women and women aged between 14 and 75 years of age.

How they benefit:

The attendees complete the week-long course and benefit from:

- A new set of sewing skills
- The ability to create items for personal use or sale
- A cross-generational forum for conversation
- A safe space for women to discuss personal problems
- The ability for the elders to pass on cultural values

Kiribati - Community Centre

The problem and the Good Sams Foundation's solution

Families living on the remote, outer islands of Kiribati send their children to study at South Tarawa because of the employment opportunities.

The children are sent to live in the care of relatives. The houses they live in are generally a 2 room, brick dwelling and it's not uncommon for there to be 12 or more people living in these small spaces. Living in such closely confined and over-crowded accommodation, with no personal security or privacy, girls and wives are exposed to a high risk of physical and sexual abuse.

Furniture in the homes is limited. People sleep on floor mats and sit on the floor to eat, study and relax.

Good Sams Foundation's Contribution to the Solution

The Good Sams Foundation is supporting the build of a community centre at Temaiku – South Tarawa. Temaiku has a fast-growing population and its residents have a need for a place where they can gather, beyond their small, overcrowded homes. The overall objective for the Centre is for it to become a gathering place of support, hospitality and community safety.

The centre will include a safe space for young girls to study. It will provide a place for the Sisters of the Good Samaritan to continue to administer to the needs of disabled adults and children and in its second phase of development it will offer hospitality to the elderly and health sessions to mothers, babies and children.

Social Impact

Who Benefits?

Residents of Temaiku, Kiribati

How they benefit?

- The Temaiku Community Centre will be a multi-purpose centre catering to different community needs.
- The Community Centre will launch with programs that offer hospitality and safety to Temaiku's most vulnerable residents – young women at risk of abuse, people with a disability, the elderly and new mothers.
- After the centre opens, a social impact report will be completed to capture data about the programs that were offered in the first year of operations, the program participation rates and outcomes for program participants.



Thank you for your ongoing support